

Firmly, Spaniard Helps the Bosnians Take Care of Themselves

By Chris Hedges

SARAJEVO. Bosnia-Herzegovina — Carlos Westendorp, a Spanish diplomat who is the top international official charged with carrying out the Bosnian peace agreement, was in the presidential palace in Zagreb recently listening to a windy lecture by President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia on European history and the Islamic threat to Western civilization.

Mr. Tudjman, who led his country in fighting the Muslims and the Serbs, told Mr. Westendorp that history would place him alongside Franco as "a savior of Western civilization."

Mr. Westendorp, 61, a bitter opponent of the Spanish dictator, who died in 1975, said: "One of the merits of democracy is that we got rid of saviors. We

don't want anyone to take care of us. We can take care of ourselves."

Mr. Westendorp is fighting a new battle in Bosnia, one that is often lost in the incremental steps that elate European technocrats and goes unnoticed by most everyone else. With the blessing of Washington, he now rules Bosnia by fiat and is determined to shatter the monopolistic grip on power by the Serbian, Croatian and Muslim nationalist parties that waged the war and control the three partitioned entities.

Nationalist Bosnian Serb newspapers, including *Serb Oslobodjenje* and *Javnost*, refer angrily to Mr. Westendorp as "the dictator" and complain of "colonial domination by the West." The Muslim-led government says Mr. Westendorp has forced it to comply with demands of the Dayton peace accords, such as the return of Serbian and Croatian refugees

to Sarajevo, while not putting equal pressure on the Bosnian Serbs.

The recent heavy-handed intervention by Mr. Westendorp has transformed the once largely ceremonial post of high representative into that of a governor general who runs a protectorate that has been promised more than \$5 billion in international aid.

In the last few weeks, decisions on a host of issues as diverse as media licensing, housing and tariff laws and the design for a common flag, have poured out of his office, which is staffed by 212 bureaucrats in central Sarajevo.

The nondescript office block, nicknamed "the presidency," has dismissed elected officials who obstructed peace efforts, appointed international administrators in disputed towns such as Brcko and Srebrenica, designed a new common currency, common license plates, com-

mon passports and a national emblem.

Mr. Westendorp has strayed beyond Bosnia. A week ago he threatened Croatia with international sanctions unless it permitted the return of some 500,000 ethnic Serbs driven from the country during the war. He is also working to find the financial support to unite Serbian, Croatian and Muslim Socialist parties to challenge the ruling nationalists and has pushed for the arrest of Bosnian war criminals.

The draconian measures, endorsed in a conference in December in Bonn by the six nations — the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Britain and Russia — that oversee the Bosnian peace effort, have incited the three factions closer together, although few of the 3 million displaced people and refugees have returned to their homes.

The continued failure to build a coun-

try where different ethnic groups can break down the walls of partition and live as neighbors. Mr. Westendorp believes, "is a recipe for another war."

The goal of a united Bosnia is one critics contend is impossible to achieve so soon after the war. Mr. Westendorp concedes that it is "almost impossible."

The decision by international administrators to take over the governing of Bosnia has also raised questions about how the state will work without continued infusions of outside aid and direct international supervision. The peace agreement signed in Dayton in 1995 has so far stopped the fighting but done little to restore cooperation and trust.

"We have become deeply involved in the functioning of the state," said Christian Clages, the head of the political department. "We may not run essential functions from start to finish, but at all levels we must monitor to make sure the work is being done. We have an unprecedented amount of control on the legislative and executive branches of government. We do not know, however, how we will exit, how we will not perpetuate Bosnia's culture of dependency."

Mr. Westendorp, who was the last foreign minister in the Socialist government of Felipe Gonzalez, grew up chafing under a regime that fused conservative Catholicism and Spanish nationalism, one headed by a general who was escorted into cathedrals under a canopy held by prelates. When Mr. Westendorp, the son of an army officer who was imprisoned by the Republican government during the civil war, joined the Socialist Party as a diplomat 30 years ago, it was a clandestine organization.

"Bosnia suffers from the same phenomena we experienced in Spain," he said. "The church bears a large responsibility for the war. The Bosnians are the same people. They are all Slavs. Religious identity is simply the raison d'être for these nationalist leaders to hold onto power, like animals who cling to their turf. We need to build a new set of values, new traditions, new political parties to present competing ideas and culture to overcome these nationalist movements."

The political transformation in Bosnia began last June when Mr. Westendorp took over from former Prime Minister Carl Bildt of Sweden as high representative. Mr. Bildt, deeply frustrated by his inability to move the three Bosnian leaderships, lobbied hard to broaden the powers of the high representative's office. It was Mr. Westendorp who reaped the benefits.

British soldiers from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization-led peacekeeping force occupied the Bosnian Serb city of Banja Luka in July, taking over all public buildings and handing them to Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb president and chief rival of the hard-liners based in Pale.

Next came the arrests of war-crimes suspects by peacekeepers and the forced dissolution of the Bosnian Serb special police units, the main prop that enriched and empowered the Bosnian Serb nationalists in their stronghold of Pale.

Mr. Westendorp has lately begun to deliver deadlines and ultimatums to erode the partition. He has told the Sarajevo government, which seized the apartments of tens of thousands of ethnic Croats and Serbs after the war, that it has until the end of the year to return 20,000 people to their homes.

20,000 Stage Independence Sit-Down in Kosovo Capital

The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — About 20,000 ethnic Albanians flooded the main street of the Kosovo capital on Friday, carrying out a sit-down protest to buttress their demands of independence from Serbia.

Many in the crowd flashed the two-fingered victory sign. Others clapped. Some carried posters of Ibrahim Rugova, the ethnic Albanian leader, while others waved Albanian flags.

Six girls wearing T-shirts, each with one letter spelling out KOSOVO, the Albanian version of the province's name, were at the head of the broad column of protesters.

Except for traffic patrols, no police were in sight. On Thursday, riot police blocked the main street of Pristina, the provincial capital, preventing protesters from marching.

The protest Friday ended peacefully about an hour after it started. It came a day after organizers of several peaceful demonstrations over the past few months urged ethnic Albanians to carry out daily brief "walk-throughs" in the center of the city to back their quest for independence.

Serbia has ruled Kosovo Province with a massive military and police presence since abolishing its autonomy in 1989. More than 80 people were killed in a police sweep against alleged separatists last month, in a region west of Pristina.

The police are seeking to destroy the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army, a loose organization of militants who have claimed responsibility for the deaths of dozens of Serbs and ethnic Albanians loyal to Serbia since surfacing in 1996.

Serbian radio in Pristina reported what appeared to be a new attack by the group on Friday. It said Adem Dugna, a pro-Serb ethnic Albanian politician, was seriously wounded in an overnight ambush on a road south of the provincial capital.

Three others in the car, a member of the Serbian Parliament and two officials of Mr. Dugna's Socialist Party, escaped injury.



Part of the site where more than 100 people making the hajj to Mecca were killed in a stampede on Thursday.

Saudis Say 700,000 Pilgrims Thronged Site of Stampede

The Associated Press

MECCA — Muslim pilgrims surging forward to take part in an Islamic ritual ignored instructions from security forces, setting off the stampede that left more than 100 people dead, Saudi officials were quoted as having said Friday.

The victims, most of them elderly, were trampled or plunged to their deaths during the chaos Thursday in Mina, about five kilometers (three miles) from Mecca.

Doctors in hospitals and clinics in Mecca and Mina said that 180 people were killed as pilgrims rushed forward to take part in the "stoning the devil" ritual. The official Saudi Press Agency, however, put the death toll at 118.

More than 250 people were injured and many are in critical condition with severe internal bleeding, the doctors said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

General Ahmad Bilal, director-general of public security, said that 700,000 pilgrims were crowding by the site of the stoning at midday Thursday, when

people began to press forward. "The number was frightening and the crowd advanced like a torrent," he said.

He added that some security officers who tried to control the crowd had been trampled and hospitalized.

An Egyptian pilgrim said that some people had been crushed against meter-high (three-foot-high) concrete blocks by the entrance to the walkway before the pillars that are stoned.

He added that some pilgrims in the front rows of the walkway were seated when the police ordered them to move forward. Pilgrims in the back rows surged ahead, trampling many of the pilgrims in front, he said.

The Saudi pilgrimage minister, Mahmoud Safar, said that the deaths were due to "fate and destiny," adding that the pilgrims had neglected to follow instructions, the Saudi Gazette reported.

According to Muslim belief, those who die during the annual Islamic pilgrimage, the hajj, go to heaven.

French Court Bans Le Pen's Unions

Agence France-Press

PARIS — The far-right party of Jean-Marie Le Pen came under attack Friday on two fronts, with France's highest appeal court banning it from setting up its own unions and a center-right party leader seeking to prevent the party from receiving state funds.

The Cour de Cassation, in upholding a lower court ruling, said that unions set up by the National Front were illegal since their aim was to further the agenda of a political party.

Such unions would promote the Front's ideas, which are based "on race, color, background, ancestry and national and ethnic origin," the court said.

Claude Gosselin, secretary general of the center-right Union for French Democracy, submitted draft legislation calling for a constitutional ban on public financing of the National Front.

TRAVEL UPDATE

More Flights Canceled By All Nippon Strike

TOKYO (AFP) — All Nippon Airways Co. canceled eight international flights Friday as a pilots' strike dragged on into the fifth day, affecting more than 1,700 passengers.

The eight flights, among 46 international flights scheduled for the day, were return trips connecting Tokyo to Los Angeles, New York, and London as well as a round-trip flight between Osaka and Milan. The nation's second largest airline said it would cancel eight flights on both Saturday and Sunday and six on Monday if the strike was not settled overnight.

After a string of air accidents, Taiwan's Transportation Ministry unveiled tighter restrictions on airline passengers Friday, including prison terms for using cell phones on board flights. Passengers will be required to shut off cell phones and place them in carry-on luggage that must be stowed in overhead bins. Violators could face fines of 150,000 Taiwan dollars (\$4,500) or jail sentences of up to 15 years. (AP)

Britain was hit by torrential rains and flash floods Friday that killed one man, and one woman was reported missing, the police said. (Reuters)

The Belgian airline Sabena will begin serving London's Stansted Airport with three daily flights on May 17, the company announced Friday. (AFP)

Christians, Muslims and Jews: A Common Day of Celebration

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II heard confessions from 16 people from five countries in St. Peter's Basilica on Good Friday, hours before a solemn procession symbolizing Christ's suffering on his way to the crucifixion began at the Colosseum in Rome.

John Paul reduced his participation in the celebrations following hip surgery.

In celebrations elsewhere, thousands of pilgrims in Jerusalem retraced Jesus' last steps toward crucifixion, shouldering wooden crosses and singing hymns.

In the Philippines, 15 people grimaced silently or cried out in pain as attendants dressed as Roman centurions hammered 10-centimeter steel nails through their hands and feet in an annual Easter week re-enactment.

The meditation for the ceremony Friday at the Colosseum in Rome was to pay special attention to the suffering of women and lament that Jews were made to suffer by Christians because they long were held responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus. A landmark 1965 Vatican document said Jews should not be held collectively responsible.

Also on Friday, Jews began to celebrate the weeklong Passover holiday commemorating the delivery of the ancient Israelites from slavery in Egypt.

The Christian Holy week culminates Sunday with Easter, when Christians celebrate their belief in Jesus' resurrection.

John Paul will celebrate an open-air Mass and deliver a message and Easter greetings in more than 50 languages.

In Jerusalem, pilgrims led by a group of Franciscan monks walked slowly along the cobblestone Via Dolorosa — the path tradition says Jesus took from his trial to his crucifixion.

The pilgrims held up Bibles and crosses as the procession snaked through the walled Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the supposed site of Jesus' burial. Israeli troops armed with assault rifles were posted along the procession route. Israel has been on heightened alert in recent days because of threats of suicide attacks by the Islamic militant group Hamas.

Janet Johnson, a pilgrim from Somers, Connecticut, said she was disturbed by the jostling and shoving. Good Friday coincided with the last day of the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha, and the narrow alleys of the Old City were bustling with visitors.

"The crowd made what should have been a very moving experience not moving at all," Mrs. Johnson said.

In an annual re-enactment of Jesus' crucifixion outside the village of San Pedro Cutud in the Philippines, men and a woman were nailed to crosses, where they remained for a few minutes in a form of penance. A man dressed as a centurion used a spear to make a small cut to draw blood from the chest of the men.

Europe

Country	High	Low	Wind	Temp
Algeria	13/55	4/29	SE	64
Austria	11/52	3/41	E	57
Belgium	58/32	10/50	SE	50
Denmark	58/32	10/50	SE	50
France	58/32	10/50	SE	50
Germany	58/32	10/50	SE	50
Greece	58/32	10/50	SE	50
Italy	58/32	10/50	SE	50
Japan	58/32	10/50	SE	50
Spain	58/32	10/50	SE	50
Sweden	58/32	10/50	SE	50
Switzerland	58/32	10/50	SE	50
UK	58/32	10/50	SE	50
USA	58/32	10/50	SE	50

Asia

Country	High	Low	Wind	Temp
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Sweden	58/32	10/50	SE	50
Switzerland	58/32	10/50	SE	50
UK	58/32	10/50	SE	50
USA	58/32	10/50	SE	50

North America

Country	High	Low	Wind	Temp
Algeria	13/55	4/29	SE	64
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Sweden	58/32	10/50	SE	50
Switzerland	58/32	10/50	SE	50
UK	58/32	10/50	SE	50
USA	58/32	10/50	SE	50

South America

Country	High	Low	Wind	Temp
Algeria	13/55	4/29	SE	64
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Switzerland	58/32	10/50	SE	50
UK	58/32	10/50	SE	50
USA	58/32	10/50	SE	50

Forecast for Sunday through Tuesday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Legend: sun, partly cloudy, cloudy, showers, thunderstorms, rain, snow, sleet, fog, ice, hail, wind, etc.

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Pressure on Whitewater Prosecutor

Justice Department Raises Possibility of a Conflict of Interest

By Roberto Suro
and Susan Schmidt
Washington Post Staff Writers

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department has urged the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, to investigate allegations that David Hale, a key witness in the Whitewater investigation, was paid off by a wealthy conservative activist.

But Mr. Starr was also alerted that he himself might face a conflict of interest because of his own possible links to the conservative activist, Richard Mellon Scaife.

The Justice Department's action requires Mr. Starr to determine whether he faces a conflict or even the appearance of one in investigating the charges regarding Mr. Hale because of Mr. Scaife's potential involvement.

Thus, for the first time, it obliges the independent counsel to address in a for-

mial manner long-standing concerns raised by President Bill Clinton's supporters that he is tainted by partisan associations.

In a letter to Mr. Starr, Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. said that if Mr. Starr believes he has a conflict over the matter he could refer the allegations back to the Justice Department, which then would conduct an investigation.

Mr. Hale provided testimony that helped bring convictions against Mr. Clinton's partners in the Whitewater real estate venture, Mr. Starr's most successful prosecution thus far.

Under a cooperation agreement with the independent counsel, he also has alleged that Mr. Clinton was directly involved in a fraudulent loan scheme when he was governor of Arkansas.

Last month, in response to news reports, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Fort Smith, Arkansas, and the FBI began investigating allegations that Mr. Hale had received money from individuals associated with Mr. Scaife, a Pittsburgh millionaire who has openly financed efforts to turn up scandalous information regarding the president, Hillary Clinton and their close friends.

Mr. Scaife was the major financial backer for a new school of public policy at Pepperdine University in California that Mr. Starr announced last year he was resigning to head.

Mr. Starr reversed his decision four days later under fire from what critics perceived as selfish indifference to an important civic obligation.

After more than a week of deliberating over how to handle the matter, the Justice Department informed Mr. Starr on Thursday that federal prosecutors in Arkansas had conducted a preliminary inquiry into information

suggesting that Mr. Hale may have received cash and other gratuities from individuals seeking to discredit the president during a period when Mr. Hale was actively cooperating with your investigation.

Mr. Holder said in his letter that the Justice Department had confirmed "that the information warranted further investigation" and that Mr. Starr had jurisdiction over the allegations — which, if proven, could amount to witness-tampering and other serious crimes.

The money allegedly originated with Mr. Scaife, a virulent critic of Mr. Clinton who bankrolled several anti-Clinton investigative projects and gave more than \$1 million through his foundations to the American Spectator, a magazine that first published a number of allegations against Mr. Clinton, including those that led to the Paula Jones lawsuit.

Parker Dozier, a longtime friend of Mr. Hale's, said in recent media interviews that he received money from the American Spectator to help with its Whitewater coverage and in turn gave cash to Mr. Hale while he was cooperating with Mr. Starr's Whitewater investigation. Mr. Dozier's former girlfriend, Caryn Mann, has said that Mr. Hale gave Mr. Dozier detailed reports about the progress of Mr. Starr's inquiry.

A spokesman for Mr. Starr's office said the Justice Department letter had just been received and that there would be no immediate comment on it.

Mr. Scaife financed an investigation into whether the 1993 death of the deputy White House counsel, Vincent Foster Jr., resulted from foul play, and has been highly critical of Mr. Starr's office for an investigation that concluded Mr. Foster had died by suicide.



FLEEING TO SAFETY — A police officer helping a student flee from a school for troubled youngsters in Pocatello, Idaho, during a five-hour standoff with an armed student, 14. Nobody was injured and the student gunman surrendered after officers delivered on his demands for pizza, soda and cigarettes.

Away From Politics

• Vice President Al Gore headed to the suburbs of Birmingham, Alabama, and to Georgia to tour areas struck by tornadoes that killed at least 44 people in four states. Authorities said at least 32 people were killed in Alabama. Local media reported 10 people died in Georgia. One person was killed in Mississippi and another in North Carolina. (Reuters)

• A government report says that cigars can be just as lethal as cigarettes, causing similar cancers of the mouth, esophagus, larynx and lungs. A National Cancer Institute report also said that regular cigar smokers who inhale have an increased risk of coronary heart disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. (AP)

• Ross Perot's computer services company has revoked health coverage for partners of newly hired gay employees. Mr. Perot, chairman of Perot Systems, said that his decision reflected his fear that heterosexuals would falsely claim relationships to win these benefits. "It has nothing to do with gay rights," he said. (NYT)

assembly lines and telemarketing, going to the toilet can involve pleading and even the risk of losing a job. (AP)

Judge Questions Starr Subpoenas on Lewinsky's Book-Buying

By David Streitfeld and Bill Miller
Washington Post Staff Writers

WASHINGTON — A U.S. District Court judge has set a high bar for the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, saying he will have to show "a compelling need" if he is to get the titles of books bought by Monica Lewinsky.

In a six-page order, Judge Norma Holloway Johnson declared that Ms. Lewinsky's "First Amendment rights are at issue here."

Last month, Mr. Starr subpoenaed records of book purchases by the former White House intern, a central figure in the perjury investigation of President Bill Clinton.

In his deposition in the recently dismissed sexual harassment lawsuit brought against him by Paula Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, Mr. Clinton said that Ms. Lewinsky had given him one

or two books, a statement Mr. Starr is trying to corroborate. Mr. Starr subpoenaed two Washington book stores, Kramersbooks and Barnes & Noble, for records of books Ms. Lewinsky bought there over a 28-month period.

Judge Johnson wrote that "the bookstores and Ms. Lewinsky have persuasively alleged a chilling effect on their First Amendment rights."

The subpoena on Kramersbooks also had a chilling effect on the store's business, the judge wrote, noting that after the store was reported to be cooperating with Mr. Starr, "many customers" told its staff they would no longer shop there. A group of librarians also picketed the store, which later joined Barnes & Noble in challenging the subpoenas.

Prosecutors said at a hearing before Judge Johnson last week that they wanted the records of Ms. Lewinsky's 4 purchases at Kramersbooks and 12

purchases at a store of the Barnes & Noble chain to help establish the nature of her relationship with Mr. Clinton. Mr. Starr is seeking to determine whether Mr. Clinton or others may have urged people to lie under oath to cover up an affair that is alleged to have occurred between Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky.

But Judge Johnson gave Mr. Starr until Thursday to show a "sufficient connection" between the records he is seeking and his grand jury investigation. Sources said that Mr. Starr's office sought more time and now has until Monday to respond.

Arthur Spitzer of the American Civil Liberties Union said the order would make it difficult for the government to enforce the subpoena the way it was written. "If I were the government," he said, "I would withdraw the subpoena and issue a much narrower one." A narrower subpoena, for example, could seek to confirm that Ms. Lewinsky bought a specific title.

Republicans Consider Calling Starr

Anticipating a formal report from Mr. Starr, Republicans in the House of Representatives are considering a plan to have the independent counsel testify before Congress about any evidence of impeachable offenses that he turns up against the president, The Associated Press reported.

Republican officials said that under this proposal Mr. Starr would be called to explain his findings before a panel of lawmakers. The Republicans are in control of the House.

These officials cautioned that no decisions had been made, and even if the lawmakers decided to go ahead, numerous details remained to be worked out.

These include whether such a session would be open to the public, and what kind of questioning Mr. Starr himself would be subject to.

Clinton Pledges to Fight for Tobacco Bill

In Kentucky, President Is Unfazed by Cigarette Makers' Refusal to Prolong Talks

By David E. Rosenbaum
New York Times Service

CARROLLTON, Kentucky — President Bill Clinton has vowed that he will continue to fight for tobacco legislation despite the intransigence of the cigarette manufacturers, and he promised the residents of this tobacco-growing community that their livelihoods would not be threatened by the bill.

"We don't have to wreck the fabric of life in your community," he declared Thursday in a speech in the Carroll County High School gymnasium. "But even in tobacco country, we can't deny what the scientists have told us or what has been done to market tobacco to children."

Mr. Clinton's visit here, a rural area about 40 miles (65 kilometers) southwest of Cincinnati, was scheduled long before the leading American cigarette manufacturers announced Wednesday that they had cut off discussions with the White House and Congress about legislation to regulate tobacco because they could see that the direction the political process was heading was unfavorable to the industry.

The president seemed undaunted by the companies' announcement. "I am going to do my dead-level best to get legislation passed this year," he said.

One reason for Mr. Clinton's visit, aides said, was to exploit a widening rift between tobacco growers and cigarette manufacturers and to convince the farmers that the companies' legislative

interests were not theirs. The settlement the tobacco companies reached last June with state attorneys general did not address what would happen to tobacco farmers and their communities if the demand for tobacco dropped.

Mr. Clinton, however, has made this a priority from the beginning. With his support, the bill approved last week by the Senate Commerce Committee would set aside money and provide other protections for farmers. To the displeasure of the manufacturers, the bill includes provisions to keep the price of tobacco high.

Part of Mr. Clinton's route to the high school was lined with protesters carrying signs like "Tobacco pays my bills." Many, if not most, of them had been organized and bused here by Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., the company based in Louisville that makes Lucky Strike and Kool, among other brands of cigarettes.

Before the speech, the president had a give-and-take session with farmers and others at a warehouse where nearly \$1 million worth of tobacco was sold Wednesday.

Bill Sprague, president of Kentucky Farm Bureau, the largest organization of farmers in the state, said the 60,000 tobacco farmers in Kentucky earned about \$1 billion a year. It is the state's most profitable crop per acre.

The most striking remarks came from Martie Mack, a farmer from Brandenburg, near Louisville.

"My four children did not smoke," she told the president. "I don't smoke. My husband

don't smoke. And we are against children smoking. Mr. President, but we shouldn't be penalized on account of children smoking."

She continued: "Tobacco has been good. We paid for our farm off the tobacco. We educated our kids off of tobacco. We paved our old driveway with blacktop on tobacco. We pay our property taxes. We pay the preacher on Sunday morning. We pay for our fertilizer. We overhaul our tractors and our wagons, and we buy tires. We pay our insurance. And we pay the man to help us on the farm. And we pay his Social Security, and we pay his Medicare. And we just try to live right and do right on tobacco."

Despite such emotion, Mr. Clinton was in the kind of setting where he thrives. He looked the skeptics in the eye and seemed to have won many of them over when he offered what has become one of his favorite lines: "We have no interest whatever in putting the tobacco companies out of business. I just want to get them out of the business of selling tobacco to children."

A section of the Commerce Committee bill, written by Senator Wendell Ford, Democrat of Kentucky, who was with the president Thursday, would allow the government to buy out tobacco farmers who wanted to leave the business. Financial assistance would be given to those who stayed on the farm and to communities suffering because of a drop in tobacco sales.

Most important from the point of view of Kentuckians, the measure would leave in place the government's tobacco program.

Democrats' Debt Down to \$7 Million

WASHINGTON — The Democratic National Committee has announced it has pared its once-mountainous debt to less than \$7 million, a level party leaders said would allow Democrats to be competitive in this year's congressional elections.

The committee had piled up a huge debt during the 1996 elections and the congressional and Justice Department investigations that came in their aftermath. The party spent \$12 million on legal costs alone to deal with the fallout from 1996 fundraising, including \$2.5 million still owed to its law firm, Debevoise & Plimpton. The committee expects to incur as much as \$1.4 million in additional legal bills this year.

At its height last September, the party's net debt, the amount it owes in loans and bills minus its cash on hand, was \$15.3 million. As of March 31, that number had been cut by more than \$8 million. On its Federal Election Commission report filed Thursday, the party said it had total debt of \$9.3 million (\$2.6 million in loans and \$6.7 million in owed bills). The committee has cash on hand of \$2.6 million, leaving a net debt of \$6.7 million.

"Many people wrote us off," said Steve Grossman, the national chairman. "I think we're back." (WP)

Government Does Its Bit on Welfare

WASHINGTON — Vice President Al Gore says the government has hired more than 3,600 welfare recipients through its "welfare-to-work" initiative and called on federal contractors to voluntarily join in the effort to "replace welfare checks with paychecks."

A year ago, hoping to jump-start the nation's effort to move large waves of welfare recipients into the work force, President Bill Clinton announced that the federal government would do its fair share by hiring 10,000 welfare recipients by the year 2000.

Mr. Gore, speaking Thursday at the Old Executive Office Building, urged every federal agency to encourage their contractors and suppliers to recruit, mentor and train welfare recipients.

"We do have a long way to go, so let's redouble our efforts," Mr. Gore said at a gathering of contractors and administration officials. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Lucianne Goldberg, a New York book agent and friend of Linda Tripp, on Ms. Tripp's dismissal of one of her lawyers, James Moody, in a squabble over media appearances after her expected grand jury appearance in the Monica Lewinsky investigation: "He's been promising her to the media when he hadn't run it by her." (WP)

A Negative View in Quebec

Court Rules Paper's Random Photo Violated Privacy

Reuters

OTTAWA — News photographers in Quebec who take pictures of ordinary people outdoors and then publish them violate their subjects' right to privacy, Canada's Supreme Court has ruled.

The case centered on Gilbert Duclos, who photographed a teenager, Pascale-Claude Aubry, relaxing on the outside steps of a building on a Montreal street 10 years ago. The defunct Montreal magazine Vice-Versa published the shot in an edition about life in such cities as Montreal and Vancouver, and she successfully sued because she said her classmates had laughed at her.

"In our view, the artistic expression of the photograph, which was alleged to have served to illustrate contemporary urban life, cannot justify the infringement of the right to privacy it entails," the court said Thursday in a 2-2 decision.

The case dealt mainly with private, rather than public, figures. The court said that "certain aspects of private life of a person who is engaged in public activity can become matters of public interest."

An award to Ms. Aubry of 2,000 Canadian dollars (\$2,840) was upheld. Since the case was fought on a privacy clause in Quebec's human rights charter, it pertained directly only to Quebec.

However, it was possible that it could be used in interpreting laws on protecting the use of one's image that apply in four of Canada's nine other provinces. There is no comparable federal statute covering the whole country.

The court barred photographs of ordinary citizens who have not given their consent unless they are taken in the context of an overall crowd such as at a baseball game or a demonstration. This appeared to mean a ban on random shots of

smokers to illustrate a story on tobacco use. Footage of street people in a story on the homeless or even a picture of a young boy licking an ice cream cone on a hot July day. "There is an infringement of the person's right to his or her image, and therefore fault, as soon as the image is published without consent and enables the person to be identified," the court ruled.

Rhonda and David Elghamyan, with members of their family, would like to thank the rabbi, relatives and friends for all their wonderful support, love and messages of condolence during the tragic loss of their beloved Moshe.

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In Belfast, as Some Tear Walls Down, Others Work to Raise Them

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

BELFAST — While politicians were frantically putting the finishing touches this week to the historic settlement aimed at bringing Protestants and Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland together, surveyors in a bleak Belfast neighborhood scarcely a few miles from the negotiations were busy building a new wall separating them.

NEWS ANALYSIS

With the peace process moving into the critical next phase of referendums in May in Ireland and Northern Ireland, the elemental and persisting dilemma of this conflicted province remains that for all the people who want to tear down barriers, there are still people eager to raise them.

They range from political activists who believe the proposals shortchange their communities' interests to fighters in breakaway paramilitary gangs who have no interest in the peace process

at all and struggle to undermine it with savage and random bloodshed. Their motives and tactics may be different, but their common objective is to see the peace proposals voted down, and the governments of Britain and Ireland, the sponsors of the talks, are taking the threat seriously.

Ian Paisley, the longtime militant Protestant leader who kept his Democratic Unionist Party out of the talks, chastised Protestant parties that did sign up, saying, "The people of Northern Ireland at the referendum will totally and absolutely reject you and what you are attempting to do."

The 5.5-meter-high (18-foot-high) fence topped with concertina wire demarcating Protestant and Catholic communities in the Whitewell area of North Belfast, like the 30 other reinforced concrete and steel barriers snaking through the middle of Belfast, is called a "peace line," a name that is more than just a grim euphemism. In fact, the only peace that Belfast has known has been, like

these walls, intermittent and imposed, and have served to reinforce rather than reduce the divisions in a society whose natural tendencies run to snubs and alienation.

It is a remarkable achievement that there have been sustained talks and a

fluence the outcome. "The Choice Is Yours" say billboards picturing a young couple walking on a beach at sunrise that are going up all over Northern Ireland. The slogan is meant to underline the notion that the solution is not one that outsiders are forcing on this tempera-

scale effort at persuasion. "We are planning a public information campaign to inform people about the referendum, maximize awareness of it and communicate a sense of its importance," said David Lyle, chief executive of the Belfast office of McCann-Erickson, the advertising agency responsible.

The vote to approve is expected to go smoothly in the Republic of Ireland where a poll last month showed that only 16 percent objected to the principal Irish concession, a decision to abandon the territorial claim to Northern Ireland in its constitution.

Officials are bullish about the outcome in Northern Ireland in public but privately worried about the risks. Their concern focuses particularly on Protestants, who have been reluctant participants in the process and wary of its consequences. It is a population already fatalistic about the rise in the numbers of Catholics and the growth of a Catholic middle class moving into public life, professions and residential areas the

Protestants long dominated. In two past attempts at redressing the political power balance in Northern Ireland and giving the Irish government a say in the conduct of the province, the Sunningdale agreement of 1973 and the Hillsborough Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985, it was Protestant politicians who protested the loudest. Their fear of Dublin's involvement is even greater now that Ireland has emerged as an independent European country with a booming economy and a self-confidence notably missing in the North.

In the last vote, the national election of May 1997, the Northern Ireland vote was 61 percent Protestant and 37 percent Catholic, a significantly wider spread than the percentages, 53 and 47 respectively, of the population.

Of the 1.2 million voters, 215,000 are between the ages of 18 and 24, people who have never known anything but the violence that has tormented Northern Ireland since 1969. "There's a terrible phrase people use here," said Mr. Lyle, "and it is that people can become anesthetized to violence."

Another worry is the power of Mr. Paisley. He agitated against the talks from the outset, saying with characteristic bombast that he would "set the winds on fire" against them in a series of rallies across the province. The protests fizzled and his party has lost clout in Northern Ireland by staying outside the talks, but his personal power to attract votes and stir passions remains formidable.

In recent days Mr. Paisley has been outside the Stormont Castle Buildings, the drab social security headquarters housing the talks, attacking David Trimble, leader of the largest Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, as a "traitor" to their community's cause. He has already characterized the get-out-the-vote campaign as "a deceitful and filthy plan which makes Machiavelli look like a rank amateur."

The Northern Ireland Office of the British government has advised campaigners to suppress unfavorable poll results and put a rosy glow on troublesome passages of the settlement. "The focus should be on selling the concept of an agreed future," a leaked memo said, "rather than its precise details."

The campaign is going to focus on areas like four districts east of Belfast where middle-class Protestants expected to favor the settlement voted in disappointing numbers in May out of apparent apathy. The campaign to assure a good turnout will go slower among youths and in deprived areas where planners think people tend to take harder positions.

"We are going to concentrate on older people in general, people who can remember pre-1969 when things weren't so ghettoized," said an organizer from Belfast. "Younger voters in Northern Ireland tend to see things very black and white, much more simplistically."

No one supposes that the accord puts an end to the violence, and many people expect the immensity of the vote will make the violence-prone even more inclined to bomb and kill.

British intelligence is reporting rising numbers of young people joining the fringe paramilitary groups, and officials note with concern that some of the equipment and techniques involved in recent terror acts committed by splinter groups exceed their capabilities. They conclude that mainstream groups, pledged to cease-fires are lending assistance.

"While they adopt a public posture of being sweet and innocent, they may not have abandoned the tactical use of violence to drive home a point," a British official said.

ULSTER: Agreement Accepted

Continued from Page 1

"exorcise the demons of history." Mr. Blair said Friday he hoped the agreement would lift the "burden" of Northern Ireland's turbulent past.

Looking ahead to the votes and the effort required to put into place Friday's plan, Mr. Blair said, "I stress that this is the beginning of a process of change where people can work together in ways that they haven't been able to before."

Mr. Clinton called the agreement "the best chance for peace in a generation."

"In the days to come, there may be those who will try to undermine this great achievement, not only with words but perhaps also with violence," Mr. Clinton said. "All the parties and all the rest of us must stand shoulder to shoulder to defy any such appeals."

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, called the announcement "part of our collective journey from the failures of the past," but he said he still worried about the "huge gap of distrust" between Northern Ireland's two communities.

David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, the largest Protestant party, who has refused to speak directly to Mr. Adams during the months of talks, said he would continue to snub him until "he stops that dirty squalid little war."

It was a last-minute objection from Mr. Trimble and his party that nearly scuttled the negotiations Friday afternoon and brought a phone call of reassurance from Mr. Clinton, requested by Mr. Blair, over guarantees being sought by the Ulster Unionists covering the ultimate disarmament of paramilitary groups.

During the early hours of the morning, it was the representatives of Sinn Féin who said they were unhappy with so many provisions under discussion that they were not disposed to sign the agreement.

What the negotiators from the 21 months of talks produced was a framework for sharing power designed to satisfy Protestant demands for a reaffirmation of their national identity as British, Catholic desires for a closer relationship with the predominantly Catholic Republic of Ireland and Britain's wish to return to Northern Ireland the powers London assumed in 1972 when the local



Former Senator George Mitchell announcing Friday the historic accord he helped hammer out in Belfast.

Stormont legislature was disbanded.

Under the agreement, there will be a new democratically elected legislature in Belfast, a new ministerial council giving the governments of Northern Ireland and Ireland joint responsibilities in areas like tourism, transportation and the environment, and a new consultative council that twice a year will bring together ministers from the British and Irish parliaments and the three assemblies being created here and in Scotland and Wales.

The Irish government will move to eliminate its territorial claim on Northern Ireland from its constitution.

The critical issues of police and judicial-system reform, the release of paramilitary prisoners, and the dismantling of the vast underground arsenals of weaponry in the province will be submitted to new commissions for study and recommendations.

In the wary and vengeful political atmosphere of Northern Ireland, Protestant leaders must now assure their fol-

lowers that the agreement does not represent the beginning of the integration of their province into Ireland, that the new cross-border council is not the embryo of the all-Ireland government that they fear. And Catholic leaders must persuade their constituents that the pact does not represent abandonment of the long-term goal of union with the Republic and does not constitute ratification of the permanent partitioning of the island.

In the parlance of Northern Ireland, Catholics are referred to as republicans or nationalists, Protestants as unionists or loyalists.

Catholics date their resentment of the dominant Protestants to the British creation of plantations here in the 17th century that deprived the native Irish of some of their best land and drove them into subservience. When Protestant power came under serious challenge three decades ago, loyalist paramilitary groups arose to combat the IRA, and the province entered its bloodiest period. Since 1969, 3,248 people, by official

count, have died in bombings, shootings and massacres.

The talks took place in drab civil service buildings on the grounds of the old Stormont Parliament, the Protestant-controlled legislature that ran Northern Ireland until its disbandment in 1972, when authority passed to London. A broad-facaded imperial statehouse commanding a high hillside at the end of a sweeping driveway, it represents to Catholics the triumphalist sway they feel Protestants exercised in Northern Ireland for the 50 years it existed.

Participating in the talks were 8 of Northern Ireland's 10 political parties, some of them admitted only after paramilitary forces they represented adopted cease-fires. Two of them, the Ulster Democratic Party, which represents a Protestant force, and Sinn Féin were obliged to leave the talks for weeks because of evidence that some of their armed people had been involved in sectarian killings after Christmas. Both were readmitted.

HOPE: It Rises in Belfast

Continued from Page 1

Presbyterian minister of the Cook Centry Church.

Holding a man-sized wooden cross in front of him, Mr. Campbell led the group to his church. Among the marchers, pushing a stroller holding her year-old granddaughter, Nuala, was Philomena McLaughlin, a Catholic who said her father-in-law and the father of her son-in-law.

"This is a very important step," she said of the peace agreement. "It's good for all my children and grandchildren. Now they can be reared in peace without fear of bombs and bullets and beatings."

Another Catholic, Margaret Burke, said, "We've been praying for a long time for peace. I'm going in to thank God."

A Protestant woman, Janet Robinson, said, "There is a great sense of forgiveness. We've got to get on with each other."

She said that several years ago a good friend had her legs blown off by a bomb planted under her car by the Irish Republican Army. The IRA, she said, thought the car belonged to a Protestant policeman, but he had moved away.

In the stone church on the Upper Ormeau Road, Catholics and Protestants took turns reading from the New Testament about the crucifixion of Jesus. On one wall was a large British Union Jack; opposite was a large green flag with a shamrock, the symbol of the overwhelmingly Catholic Irish Republic. Mr. Campbell said, "We pray for those in our midst whose answer is assassination in words or deeds."

As she greeted people leaving the church, the Reverend Marlene Taylor, assistant minister at the church, said, "For actual peace to come, it must come in people's hearts and minds. That will take time. But it's a beginning."

A Catholic priest from the nearby parish of Drumbo, the Reverend Paul Symonds, said the peace agreement "might move us toward a closer unity." But, he said, "Where the spirit of God is at work, the spirit of evil will try to destroy. Satan is still at work in the hearts of some people."

Scientists Swing Into U.S. Debate Over Evolution

By Rene Sanchez
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Fearful that many schools are buckling to new pressure from Christian conservatives not to teach evolution, the National Academy of Sciences has declared that the subject must be a vital part of science instruction and that lessons on creationism do not belong in those classes.

In an unusual move, the academy is issuing an elaborate guidebook for teachers that details how evolution should be discussed with students and how sensitive questions, including those from parents, can be answered. The book calls evolution the most important concept in modern biology, but contends that students are receiving little exposure to it because teachers are being bullied into silence by religious groups.

"We are finding that more teachers

Guidebook for Teachers to Counter Creationism

are reluctant to teach about this central idea," said Bruce Alberts, the academy's president. "Our hope is that this will help them."

Today, more than 70 years after the historic trial and conviction of John Scopes for teaching evolution in a Tennessee school, there are again growing campaigns across the country to limit or prohibit discussion of the subject in science classes. Several school boards have ordered teachers to give equal time to creationism, and lawmakers in a few states want to remove the term evolution from their science curricula altogether. In Alabama, biology textbooks now include a disclaimer telling students that evolution is only a controversial theory.

Few issues in education are older or

more contentious. Many Christian conservatives want schools to teach students that God created the Earth in six days, as described in the Bible. Or they at least want that view to be given the same credibility as the theory of evolution, which holds that life on Earth developed over billions of years.

But the nation's scientific community, backed by a 1987 Supreme Court ruling on the issue, has long argued that public schools should ban discussions of creationism because it is a purely religious concept not supported by scientific evidence.

The National Academy of Sciences is a nonprofit group chartered by Congress to give the nation guidance on important scientific matters. Although school districts are not required to ac-

cept its advice, since matters of curriculum are controlled locally, the academy's guide could provide a powerful tool to educators who want to continue teaching evolution.

Many of them welcomed the academy's leap back into the debate. "This is a very real problem for teachers," said Wayne Carley, the president of the National Association of Biology Teachers. "And it's definitely on the increase."

Some religious conservatives, however, scoffed at the academy's stance and said the decision to teach evolution or creationism, or both, should strictly be a local one. "We believe communities have the right to have their values reflected in the curriculum," said Arne Owens, a spokesman for the Christian Coalition. "Public schools are harmed when they exclude important, legitimate points of view."

RUSSIA: Kiriyenko Snubbed

Continued from Page 1

have used Mr. Kiriyenko's youth and inexperience as the opening salvo in what is widely seen as a broader attack against the government's politics of economic reform.

"We are voting today not so much on the head of the government, but on the course to get out of this crisis," said Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader.

But last-minute defections, such as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the arch-nationalist, said Mr. Yeltsin's choice was inappropriate. "You can't make a first-grader an academician, or make a sergeant a marshal," said Mr. Zhirinovskiy, whose Liberal Democratic Party had been expected to vote for Mr. Kiriyenko on Friday. "Otherwise, there will be failure and destruction."

But Mr. Zhirinovskiy also said that he had backed out of his earlier promises to support Mr. Kiriyenko once it became clear that his party was not going to get any seats in a new cabinet. The final vote, however, suggested that many members of the opposition had broken ranks to vote for Mr. Kiriyenko.

Mr. Kiriyenko, meanwhile, who in two short weeks has been propelled from obscurity to center stage, was saying Friday that he was not available for politics as usual.

"I am absolutely independent and I am not going to listen to anyone except President Boris N. Yeltsin," said Mr. Kiriyenko, who has had only one year of experience in government. "Neither old acquaintances nor friendship will matter."

"It is our duty to overcome the people's mistrust of the government and their estrangement from it," he continued, straddling a fine line between defending the government he served and calling for one that would be better managed and more open.

Mr. Kiriyenko has already indicated that four key ministers would remain in their jobs — Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov, Defense Minister Igor Sergeev, Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin and Finance Minister Mikhail Zadornov.



Vladimir Zhirinovskiy gesturing as he spoke out Friday in the state Duma.

In a 30-minute speech to the Duma, Mr. Kiriyenko delivered a harsh summary of the nation's economic situation. He said Russia now spends 30 percent of its budget servicing a foreign debt of \$122 billion — up from 13 percent in 1996 — at a time when revenues have shrunk because of the drop in world oil prices. Gross domestic product has stopped growing, he said, and almost one third of all Russians are living at or below the poverty line.

"Over the past half a year, the government has said the economy is growing," he said. "But why has not a single resident of the country felt this?"

Such blunt talk was rarely heard from Mr. Chernomyrdin, the veteran prime minister whose ouster by Mr. Yeltsin remains a political puzzle in Moscow. Now a declared candidate for the presidential elections in 2000, Mr. Chernomyrdin, at a celebration Thursday of his 60th birthday attended by both Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Kiriyenko, told guests that he had no regrets.

"I never retreated, never betrayed anyone and always knew what I was doing and why," he said.

MALAYSIA: Embassies Surrender Dozens of Indonesians Who Scaled Fences for Asylum

Continued from Page 1

entered its embassy were illegal workers, Reuters reported from Paris. "They were social and economic refugees and therefore not political refugees," a ministry spokesman said.

"The embassy tried to convince them to leave for two hours, after which the police were allowed in," the spokesman said, adding that the Malaysian security forces had acted with the "greatest humanity."

Malaysia has been trying to rid the country of thousands of illegal immigrants, most of them fleeing Indonesia's economic crisis, and several weeks ago the government began a high-profile campaign called Operation Go Away. The campaign has been marred by setbacks, including a riot late last month when Indonesians at a detention center outside Kuala Lumpur burned down half the complex and killed a police officer. The police retaliated, killing eight of the inmates.

Several days after that riot, 12 Indonesian immigrants crashed a truck through the gates of the office here of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees and requested asylum. They have remained in the compound, sleeping on the lawn outside the UN building, as their request is processed.

Like the immigrants waiting in the UN agency compound, those seeking asylum Friday at the U.S. Embassy told staff members that they were from a region in northern Sumatra called Aceh, where separatists are waging a campaign for independence.

Hundreds of Acehnese fled to Malaysia several years ago to escape fighting between the Indonesian Army and Aceh

rebels; many Acehnese say they will be persecuted if they are sent back home.

Malaysia does not consider the illegal immigrants refugees. "To us, this is a very clear issue," Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Thursday. "They have all been economic immigrants and claims that they were political refugees only surfaced in the last few weeks."

The Malaysian Foreign Minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, asked Friday why the UN High Commissioner for Refugees should be involved in the issue, said: "We know they came here

when Indonesia is facing an economic crisis. That is the push factor."

A Western diplomat said the UN agency had not been given access to illegal immigrants held in detention centers around the country, making it difficult for the organization to judge claims by many of the detainees that they will be persecuted if they return to Indonesia.

"If that procedure had been adhered to perhaps we wouldn't have the situation we have today," the diplomat said.

Sadako Ogata, the High Commissioner for Refugees, last month urged Malaysia to stop deporting the Acehnese.

"We are very worried," she said, "since genuine refugees in need of international protection may well be among these sent back by Malaysia." She added, "I regret that our repeated requests for access to the detention centers have not been granted."

Despite the recent setbacks, Kuala Lumpur has vowed to speed the deportations. The government says there are 800,000 illegal foreign workers in Malaysia. Unofficial estimates put the number as high as 1.5 million.

Scientists Ask Bonn to 'Cease' Policies

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Church of Scientology on Friday again called on Germany to end its "discriminatory policies" against the organization after a German security agent was arrested in Switzerland, apparently as he was trying to spy on Scientologists there.

In a letter to the German Embassy in Washington, the group said the government in Bonn should "cease and dis-

close all such activity against Scientology in the U.S. and in the more than 100 countries where Scientology churches and missions exist around the world."

In Basel on Monday, the authorities detained a German official who was allegedly trying to collect information on the group. Germany considers the organization a business that engages in coercive activities and bilks its members through fake counseling sessions.

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U.S. Pushes Human Rights Before Clinton Visits China

Reuters

BEIJING — The United States is pushing hard for the release of Chinese political prisoners before President Bill Clinton visits Beijing in June, a top administration official said Friday.

But Thomas Pickering, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs who was here to lay the groundwork for the first visit to China of a U.S. president in nine years, had no word on whether Wang Dan, the jailed student protest leader, would be released.

Mr. Pickering also sounded out Chinese leaders on U.S. hopes of putting Pol Pot, the former Khmer Rouge leader, on trial for the deaths of more than a million Cambodians.

"The Chinese side listened with interest," he said. "They did not venture yet to give us any definitive response."

China was the main supporter of the Khmer Rouge during its 1975-79 reign of terror.

Mr. Pickering indicated that human rights, along with trade and weapons control issues, would top the agenda during Mr. Clinton's summit meeting with the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin. Also on the table would be cooperation in energy and the environment, and advancing military ties.

"The release of dissidents is a very important part of the policy objective," Mr. Pickering said at a news conference.

U.S. administration officials have said privately that they are hopeful Mr. Wang, a leader of the 1989 Tiananmen Square democracy movement now serving an 11-year prison term, would be set free before the summit meeting, or possibly after.

But Mr. Pickering said: "I'm not in any position to give you any prediction of the release of any particular individual."



CHINESE TAKE-OUT — Young transient laborers breaking for lunch Friday at a construction site in Beijing. A recent survey found there were 2.86 million transient workers living in the Chinese capital.

"We made our case very strongly about such releases," he added.

Mr. Pickering said he told Chinese officials, including Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen, that it was "extremely important" for China to sign the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights very soon.

The pact guarantees a wide range of freedoms that Beijing now limits, including the rights to free speech, assembly and worship.

China's promise to sign the agreement was rewarded with a decision by the United States and European Union nations not to sponsor a resolution critical of Beijing at a meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights now under way in Geneva.

Mr. Pickering said the summit meeting with Mr. Clinton offered a way to bring Beijing into the World Trade Organization, but negotiations had a long way to go. He said Washington would like "the earliest possible agreement."

"The summit, in that regard, will be an ideal target," Mr. Pickering said.

But he added: "They and we both expressed realistic views that there is a long way to go to achieve WTO accession."

China has been battling for 11 years to join the trade body, but the United States and other members of the organization insist it must offer deeper tariff cuts and open its market to wider services, including the banking and insurance businesses.

Mr. Pickering's trip is one in a series of missions to Beijing by top U.S. officials. Both sides hope the summit

meeting will build on the success of the previous meeting between the two leaders, in Washington last October. Acting Under Secretary of State John Holm, who handles arms control and international security, also visited China recently.

Charlene Barshefsky, the U.S. trade representative, arrives later this month for a bargaining session on trade. And Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will be in Beijing on April 29 and 30.

Mr. Holm told reporters in Washington on Thursday that the summit meeting was unlikely to achieve any breakthrough on efforts to halt the spread of weapons of mass destruction and missiles.

"I'd hesitate to expect a whole lot," he said. "These are hard issues that we expect a long engagement with China on."

Argentina Is Willing To Extradite Ex-Nazi

By Calvin Sims
New York Times Service

BUENOS AIRES — President Carlos Saul Menem says that, if asked, Argentina will extradite to Israel a Croatian who headed a camp where tens of thousands of Jews, Serbs and Gypsies were killed during World War II.

In an interview on government-run radio, Mr. Menem said he had instructed the authorities to find and detain the Croat, Dinko Sakic, 76, who lived undetected in Argentina for 51 years until he admitted in a television interview on Monday that he ran the Jasenovac camp.

The killings at the camp, which was known as the Auschwitz of the Balkans, took place when Croatia, formerly part of Yugoslavia, was ruled by the fascist Ustashe regime, a puppet of Germany.

Thousands of Jewish Croats were transferred from Jasenovac to Nazi death camps.

Referring to Israel, Mr. Menem said, "He may be sought by that country because many of his victims were Jews."

Mr. Menem, who has sought to distance himself from those Argentine governments that sheltered scores of Nazis who fled here after World War II, said Croatia could also request Mr. Sakic's extradition.

Justice Minister Raul Granillo Ocampo said of Mr. Sakic, "If some country asks for his extradition, I don't think it will be denied."

But Argentine Interpol officials said that no foreign government had yet requested Mr. Sakic's detention or extradition.

An Argentine federal court is still considering a request by Mr. Menem's government that Mr. Sakic be arrested on suspicion of ordering thousands of murders. Defense lawyers expressed doubt that the Argentine court would issue an arrest warrant for Mr. Sakic

unless it was sought by Croatia, Germany or another country that had jurisdiction to prosecute him.

Mr. Sakic's whereabouts have been unknown since Tuesday, when he left his home in the coastal resort town of Santa Teresita, 320 kilometers (200 miles) southeast of Buenos Aires.

His wife, Esperanza Luburic, told local reporters that her husband had gone to Buenos Aires to seek refuge in the Croatian Embassy. A spokesman for that embassy, however, denied that Mr. Sakic was there.

Why he agreed to be interviewed on national television after living quietly in Argentina for half a century is unclear.

In the interview, he acknowledged running the Jasenovac camp from December 1942 to October 1944, but denied that any killings occurred during that time.

"When I was there no guard or administrator was allowed to so much as touch a prisoner," Mr. Sakic said. "I'm not speaking about what it was like before or afterward, but when I was there no one could touch anyone."

Mr. Sakic's wife, who changed her name from Nada to Esperanza when the couple immigrated to Argentina in 1947, said that allegations that her husband had committed acts of genocide were "atrocious."

"It's such a huge lie," she said. But George Specter, international president of the Jewish organization B'nai B'rith, said in a phone interview from Washington that there was irrefutable proof that Mr. Sakic was "commandant of a killing camp."

"He is the most notorious living Nazi war criminal not in custody," Mr. Specter said. "Some people will say that happened 50 years ago and we should show compassion for this old man," he continued. "But there is no statute of limitations for genocide, and this monster should be captured and prosecuted according to the law."

Talks Opening, Seoul Foresees 'Long Wrestle'

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — On the eve of the first government contact between officials of the rival Koreas since 1994, South Korea's top delegate to the talks cautioned Friday that the talks were just a beginning of "a long, long wrestle to reaping substantive results."

North Korea proposed last week that officials from both sides at the deputy minister level meet in Beijing on Saturday to discuss South Korean fertilizer aid and other issues of mutual concern.

South Korean officials said they would try for a broad approach aimed at easing tension on the peninsula.

Thomas Pickering, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, said Friday in Beijing that the United States and China hoped the talks would lead to broader dialogue between the rivals.

"We expressed the hope that the dialogue could be broadened and enriched beyond discussion of fertilizer," he said at a briefing at the U.S. embassy.

A five-member South Korean delegation, led by Deputy Unification Minister Jeong Se Hyun, will attend the meeting. The North's delegation of five officials is to be led by Chun Kum Chul.

"The people expect a lot from this meeting," Mr. Jeong said Friday after arriving in Beijing. "But the contact is nothing more than a beginning, a long, long wrestle to reaping substantive results," the Yonhap news agency quoted him as saying.

Park Ji Won, a spokesman for President Kim Dae Jung of South Korea, said Friday in Seoul that the talks were in line with his government's desire for more cooperation and contacts.

The deputy prime ministers of North and South Korea met in 1994 to prepare for the first inter-Korea summit meeting.

The meeting was canceled a few weeks before it was to be held because of the death of the North Korean leader, Kim Il Sung. (AP, Reuters)

BRIEFLY

Cambodia Police Block March

PHNOM PENH — The police prevented hundreds of protesting garment factory workers allied with the Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy from marching Friday to the U.S. Embassy.

No violence or injuries were reported. The U.S. Embassy had issued a warning to American citizens earlier in the week to avoid the planned protest march.

A rally led by Mr. Sam Rainsy last year was attacked with grenades, leaving at least 16 people dead and more than 100 others wounded. (AP)

Move Against Pinochet Barred

SANTIAGO — Chile's lower house of Congress has rejected a motion to impeach the former strongman General Augusto Pinochet and remove him from his seat as senator for life.

Gathered at the legislature in the port city of Valparaiso, the House of Deputies on voted 62 to 52, against the impeachment motion, filed by 11 legislators in the ruling coalition. One congressman abstained.

Pro-Pinochet lawmakers assured the victory for the 82-year-old former dictator by pressing successfully for a secret ballot, thus allowing congressmen to cast a ballot without having to account for it publicly. (AP)

Nepalese Leader Is Resigning

KATMANDU, Nepal — Nepal's prime minister announced Friday that he was resigning from office after six months in power, under pressure from the government's main coalition partner.

"I am stepping down according to the agreement reached between coalition partners," Surya Bahadur Thapa told Parliament.

His move follows pressure from the main coalition partner, the Nepali Congress Party, to leave office and allow the party leader, Girija Prasad Koirala, to take over. (AP)

U.S. Fears Defeat for Colombia

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency has concluded that Colombia's military, battling a Marxist insurgency financed by millions of dollars from the cocaine and heroin trade, could be defeated within five years unless the government regains political legitimacy and its armed forces are drastically restructured. (WP)

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A Trial for Pol Pot

Time cannot erase the criminal responsibility of Pol Pot, whose murderous rule of Cambodia in the 1970s brought death to about a million people, or one out of seven Cambodians. Trying him before an international tribunal would advance justice, promote healing in Cambodia and give pause to any fanatic tempted to follow his example.

Plans to deliver Mr. Pol Pot to international custody have been rumored before. But this time the possibility seems more realistic, thanks to President Bill Clinton.

In an unusual but well-justified use of U.S. assistance, Mr. Clinton has ordered the departments of defense, state and justice to help plan for the arrest and trial of Mr. Pol Pot. The U.S. government will help move the 73-year-old former Cambodian leader to a country where he can be tried once he is arrested and will prepare the legal groundwork for prosecuting him.

Since last year, Mr. Pol Pot has been held prisoner by a faction of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla movement he once headed. The weakened guerrillas are based near the Thai-Cambodian border and are willing to discuss turning him over to an international tribunal.

Alternatively, the Thai Army could easily seize Mr. Pol Pot, and appar-

ently will do so if Washington promises to whisk him out of Thailand.

Mr. Pol Pot's eventual destination should be the Netherlands, where the UN Security Council could set up a tribunal similar to the one now trying war crimes suspects from Bosnia.

One hurdle to a UN tribunal might be a veto by China, which has protected Mr. Pol Pot in the past. China's leaders, seeking a wider role in world affairs, should recognize that further efforts to shield Mr. Pol Pot would damage their standing.

The uncertainty about China's intentions in this case underscores the need for a permanent and effective International Criminal Court to try future cases of crimes against humanity. Such a court has been held up by Washington's misplaced fear that a tribunal would unjustly try U.S. soldiers accused of criminal conduct abroad. But the business of an international criminal court would be to try people like Mr. Pol Pot, who are charged with the most egregious crimes, and only when their own nations cannot or will not.

For now, Bangkok, Washington and the Security Council should do what is necessary to hold Mr. Pol Pot accountable for his monstrous crimes.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Blowing Smoke

The American tobacco companies announced earlier this week that they were pulling out of the process of writing a national tobacco bill. It's hard even to know exactly what that means, except that the companies are unhappy, which we regard as good news, rather than bad. The last time we looked, there was no fourth branch of government called tobacco. They renounce a role they didn't have.

The companies complained that their interests were being ignored in what they persist in describing as if it were a negotiation rather than the legislative process. No doubt it would have mattered if they had walked away from their talks last year with the state attorneys general and others who were suing them. Those were negotiations; the goal was a deal, not a law.

But the deal turned out to require a law to take effect — the companies want to trade a tax increase for liability limits — and the problem was that the lawmakers, the president and Congress, weren't at the table. The deal in a way was an attempted power grab; it lacked legitimacy.

Now it's the companies that find themselves on the outside, lacking standing — and lacking their accustomed clout as well. Their reputations are such that even their campaign contributions have become liabilities. No

politician wants it said that he or she is in their pay; the money isn't worth it. These are companies that profited hugely for years by lying about what it turns out they knew were the addictive and otherwise harmful effects of their products even as they marketed those products to children — the "replacement smokers," as one internal document described them. Now these same companies complain they're being treated unfairly because the profit platform they're being offered isn't sturdy enough? It's a joke.

Congress should pass a tough bill. Tax up the price of tobacco enough to deter the habit. Reaffirm the Food and Drug Administration's regulatory authority over tobacco advertising and other marketing practices. Let the courts decide if a ban on advertising, which would protect the health of children, is a violation of the First Amendment. Leave the liability sword hanging where it is.

At every stage of this process, the companies have drawn the line, then crossed it. The problem is not that the legislative process has suddenly turned hostile and unfair.

It's a different world now. The companies say they don't want to live in it. They threaten to resist; they'll go to court, they say. What else is new?

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Let the Sunshine In

The U.S. government keeps too many secrets. It keeps material classified far too long. Excessive secrecy is expensive, breeds popular distrust of government and withholds from historians, researchers and the voting public information that is important. Passing a law to attack the culture of secrecy, as Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan seeks to do, is a good idea for many reasons.

The primary virtue of the Moynihan legislation is that it would establish a minimum standard of openness that would bind presidential administrations. Until now, the classification system has been governed primarily not by law but by executive orders that individual presidents could change whenever they chose. This allowed some presidents to impose draconian secrecy rules, while others imposed more relaxed regimes — all without input either from Congress or the courts. The government now lives under the Clinton administration's rather open executive order, but that could change in the next administration.

The Moynihan bill would provide a floor below which a secrecy-obsessed future president could not descend. The floor offered by the bill includes most of what a sunshine-friendly secrecy policy should contain. It would require that, when classifying information, the executive branch employ a balancing test under which the sensitivity of a document would be weighed against the public interest in its disclosure. This provision apparently would expand judicial review of

classification decisions and would, thereby, offer a much-needed check on executive secrecy. The legislation also would require that classifiers identify themselves and write justifications for keeping documents secret. And it would make agency heads certify to the president that any information they wish to keep secret for more than 10 years really remains sensitive.

The bill could be strengthened in certain respects. It should, for example, include provisions allowing automatic bulk declassification of older material that is not specifically identified as remaining sensitive. This requirement is already part of the Clinton administration's current executive order, but that order would be trumped if Senator Moynihan's bill became law.

Unfortunately, the main pressure on the legislation is coming from those forces inclined to weaken it, not to make it more robust. The Central Intelligence Agency has objected to expanding judicial review. The Justice Department has intimated that the whole idea of Congress's writing classification rules may violate the constitutional separation of powers. The White House still has not articulated clearly what sort of secrecy legislation the president would be willing to sign. And some Republicans on Capitol Hill have objected to spending money on declassification. These objections do not hold up and surely should not be used to gut the legislation of the advances it proposes.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

A Broad Mission Could Doom a War Crimes Court

By Adrian Karatnycky

WASHINGTON — A new International Criminal Court with far-reaching powers is hurtling toward adoption. Its supporters say the court will enable the international community to punish war criminals, perpetrators of genocide, fomenters of ethnic hatred and those guilty of "crimes against humanity."

In the weeks ahead, experts and diplomats will thrash out the text of a treaty in advance of a June gathering in Rome to establish the court.

On one side are backers of a court with a broad mandate, which include Amnesty International, the American Bar Association, the International Association of Jurists and many small democracies that rarely intervene in foreign conflicts. On the other side are supporters of a court with a narrowly defined mission, which include the United States and France, two countries deeply engaged in the world.

Regrettably, much in the working draft is worrisome and flawed.

The draft charter allows for the selection of judges on the basis of a simple majority vote by signatory states under secret ballot. With the majority of the United Nations consisting of dictatorships and countries with a

weak rule of law, nondemocratic states could decide the court's composition. The U.S. government therefore proposes electing judges by a "super-majority" that would require the backing of established democracies. The United States also seeks to make the court subject to supervision by the UN Security Council, under which its actions would be subject to U.S. veto.

A second problem with the court is its broad mandate. According to draft language, the court could intervene in an array of "crimes against humanity." These include not only murder, extermination, rape and enslavement but also "persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural or religious grounds." Amendments suggest adding "gender" and "other similar grounds" to the mandate. Such language appeals to many human rights groups, but it will result in a court that could intrude into many domestic-policy issues.

The proposed International Criminal Court also could have jurisdiction over loosely defined "war crimes," includ-

ing attacks against nonmilitary targets. U.S. officials worry that American peacekeepers could be brought up on charges if their operations result in civilian casualties. The U.S. military could be investigated at the behest of such rogue states as Libya or Iraq, where the United States has been in-

ing attacks against nonmilitary targets.

U.S. officials worry that American peacekeepers could be brought up on charges if their operations result in civilian casualties. The U.S. military could be investigated at the behest of such rogue states as Libya or Iraq, where the United States has been in-

An international project to prosecute heinous criminals gets off track.

involved in hostilities that have resulted in civilian deaths.

Another crucial issue is enforcement. Unquestionably, the U.S. military would be asked to bring to the docket those indicted by the court. With a sweeping mandate, the court could develop into an unmanageable instrument generating pressure on the United States to divert military resources away from its strategic objectives.

Another worry is cost. A court with a wide-ranging mandate would produce a vast bureaucracy. The prosecution of a handful of people for genocide and

war crimes in Rwanda already has cost \$56 million.

Ideally, the court would focus on bringing to justice those guilty of international terrorist acts, genocide and strictly defined "war crimes." A court prosecuting criminals such as Pol Pot would contribute to a safer world; a court that could prosecute U.S. peacekeepers in Bosnia would not.

Unfortunately, U.S. government efforts to improve the court are being undermined by some American non-governmental groups. One U.S. human rights leader has suggested that the treaty should proceed even without American support. The idea that an international criminal court could function without the active engagement of the United States is incredible.

While the administration has been beating the drum for the treaty over the last year, it is now realizing that in its current form the court is flawed. Frank talk is needed. Anything less will set back the legitimate effort to establish an effective body capable of punishing mankind's most heinous criminals.

The writer, president of Freedom House, contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

French Paradox: A Vichy Trial Amid National Front Inroads

By Flora Lewis

PARIS — France remains torn between the black and the glory days of its history, the narrow and the broad views of its future.

The profound, but almost un-avoidable, fracture after defeat and collaboration versus resistance in World War II has nearly faded away. But the old right-wing nationalism, France First, which paradoxically accepted Hitler's policies, is reasserting itself in what Bruno Megret calls the "new ideological divide, no longer left versus right but identity versus globalization."

Mr. Megret is the second in command of the National Front party, which he argues has far more support on principles than its average 15 percent of the vote in recent elections. He may be right, because there are those on both the right and the left who are either prepared to accept alliances or agree with some stands of his party, which President Jacques Chirac has called "racist and xenophobic."

It is unsettling that the National Front's apparent success in dividing the traditional right

over whether to accept its support and its positions comes at the same time that the verdict in the trial of Maurice Papon judicially established the wartime Vichy regime's shared responsibility for deportation and therefore death, of a quarter of the Jews in France.

Mr. Papon was the secretary-general of the prefecture in Bordeaux during the war. After the liberation of France, he advanced in the civil service under Charles de Gaulle and subsequent presidents. In 1981, his Vichy role was first questioned when documents he had signed for deporting Jews were published. François Mitterrand, elected president that year, later acknowledged he had interfered to prevent or delay the trial of Mr. Papon for crimes against humanity.

The trial finally began last fall, and Mr. Papon has been sentenced to 10 years, in effect life, since he is 87. It stirred strong emotions, but no great

dispute. Mr. Chirac has repeatedly declared, unlike all his predecessors, that Vichy's crimes are a part of the nation's record and cannot be denied. That took courage. It ran counter to the Gaullist myth that with few exceptions the French were heroic resisters.

The riddle of Mr. Papon is why it took so long to acknowledge his role as the loyal executor of Vichy policies, from de Gaulle through Mitterrand. The subject just did not come up, though he never denied his post. Serge Klarsfeld, the French historian who has made a point of memorializing the 11,000 otherwise anonymous children deported and killed, says the postwar purges were against Frenchmen who persecuted the Resistance, not those who persecuted Jews. At last, history has claimed its rights over self-serving erasure.

But at the same time here comes Mr. Megret arguing that while he does not endorse Vichy, a nation should remem-

ber its day of grandeur, not its darkness. He rejects the common description of his party as "extreme right" on the ground that the rest of the French political spectrum has moved left while the National Front "has not budged from moderation."

With rhetorical arabesques, he denies the charges of "racism, anti-Semitism, totalitarianism," while insisting that French "identity" requires shutting out foreigners and opposing the integration of Europe. He is a small man, clever, evasive, ambitious and cold, a contrast to his party's leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, who is roly-poly, emotional, sometimes humorous and easy to mock.

Mr. Le Pen could be sidelined from politics because of his assault on a Socialist candidate, which clearly does not disturb Mr. Megret in the least. He is ready to take over, with more subtle tactics. He argues that between the National Front and the left "there is nothing," an echo of André Malraux's famous claim that between "Gaullists and Communists

there is nothing" — in other words, that the center is doomed in France.

There has always been a far right in France, sometimes marginal, sometimes swelling with the discontented. It is probably true, as Mr. Megret claims, that the withering ideological battle between the traditional right and left as social and economic recipes for the modern age are merging leave his nationalistic assertiveness as the major opposition idea.

The rest of French political opinion sees it as a danger of revival of fascist urges and a challenge to democracy, the kind of thinking that made Vichy seem reasonable to so many.

The Papon trial was a reminder of how complex and ambiguous were the decisions France had to face in defeat. The National Front as Bruno Megret presents it with great assurance is a reminder that the decisions ahead also require moral clarity about what France chooses to represent, on pain of repeating old disasters.

Flora Lewis

The Pentagon Belatedly Discovers the Drawback of Monopolies

By William Pfaff

PARIS — The natural tendency of the unregulated marketplace is to produce monopolies. Monopolies serve their own interests, which may not be those of the consumer.

Defenders of market doctrine will naturally challenge this by saying that monopolies are self-canceling because they provoke new competitors to enter the market with better products or services.

The latest to discover that in crucial cases this reassuring theory is not true is the U.S. Department of Defense. In late March, the United States filed suit to block Lockheed Martin from purchasing Northrop Grumman. It claimed that this \$12 billion acquisition "would result in substantially less, and in several cases eliminate, competition in major markets critical to the national defense."

That represents a striking reversal in Defense Department policy. Since 1993 the Pentagon has not only promoted but even subsidized mergers in the U.S. aerospace industry, following another

fashionable theory about the demands of the globalized marketplace.

In 1993 the secretary of defense at the time, William Perry, demanded a huge restructuring in America's defense industry on the ground that only enormous conglomerates would have the resources and efficiencies of scale to produce, at acceptable costs, what American forces would need in the 21st century. Industry responded, and there now are only two major military aerospace producers in the United States, Lockheed Martin and Boeing. Lockheed's purchase of Northrop Grumman would logically complete a vast realignment that the Pentagon said it wanted.

These maneuvers in the American defense industry have convinced West European politicians and military aerospace manufacturers that, to survive, they too must merge. The European Union has told the major companies to produce a plan for this.

What changed the Defense Department's mind was its discovery that instead of creating a hypercompetitive aerospace industry, it had, at considerable taxpayer expense, overseen the creation of quasi-monopoly suppliers that it cannot control.

Before, the Pentagon had dealt with the defense manufacturers from a position of power. They had to compete on design and costs to get contracts. Now, their survival is assured, and their corporate and stockholder interest is in maximizing profits.

Ann Markusen, of New York's Council on Foreign Relations, published an analysis saying this last year.

"Although the mergers have been rationalized as cost-saving moves," she wrote, "they have been chiefly motivated by expectations of short-term financial gains and long-term enhanced market power and political clout."

The industry is now answerable to Wall Street demands for

steadily increasing quarterly profits that will meet the approval of fund managers and push the stock price up. Without intending it, the Pentagon has made the defense industry into just another American business, accountable to Wall Street.

Moreover, when a company is a quasi-monopoly producer, with a single prime customer, stockholder value does not come from research and innovation, but from selling to that captive customer the goods you already produce and have already amortized.

The theories about self-canceling monopolies do not work when the product is high-performance military aircraft, commercial transport aircraft or space vehicles, since virtually no private corporation has the capital to start up in these businesses and provide competition.

Even if the capital existed, the stock market would not permit a company to invest in the development of complex, high-risk and extremely expensive products that could not become profitable for decades. The time-span is not a commercial one.

Europe is in the aerospace business today only because certain European governments put up enormous sums of money to create the European Airbus consortium and the Ariane space launcher. Both are successful, but are only now paying off the government in-

vestments and loans given at the beginning of the 1970s. No commercial investor would have supplied the necessary capital over such a period.

The Pentagon has discovered the hard way that the market is a mechanism for making money for investors. It is not a self-correcting system that ultimately serves the public interest, as some have seemed to think.

It is not even patriotic, since its natural tendency is toward international consolidation. The head of Lockheed Martin, Vance Coffman, called for internationalization of the industry at the annual Wehrkunde conference on military issues in Munich in February.

However, his predecessor, Norman Augustine, who actually restructured Lockheed, now asks what would happen if "national" defense were internationalized.

"If industry is to globalize, who will decide what is to be sold to whom?" he said. "Should the U.S. let itself become technologically dependent on offshore software and electronics?"

They are important questions that go against the logic of the marketplace. They serve to emphasize that the public interest must control the marketplace, and not, as seems to have happened here, the reverse.

International Herald Tribune
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Defending Against Biological Attacks

By Jessica Stern

WASHINGTON — We've heard a lot recently about the horrors of biological weapons. Anyone with a biological degree, a crop duster and a grievance could kill you in your sleep along with millions of your neighbors, we are told.

True, biological weapons are potentially as deadly as nuclear weapons. One hundred kilograms of anthrax, less than the amount produced by Iraq, could kill millions if dispersed under ideal conditions.

This warrants concern, but not panic. Although biological agents are easy to grow or obtain, it is not enough just to acquire them. They must be spread effectively. Few countries, and even fewer terrorist organizations, if any, are capable of an open-air attack that would create mass casualties.

But that does not mean such an assault cannot happen one day. The United States is tightening its counterterrorism laws and improving its ability to save lives in the event of attacks involving biological agents, and more needs to be done.

New drugs must be developed to treat victims of biological attacks. The system for monitoring of disease outbreaks in humans, animals and plants

needs to be strengthened. Detectors capable of rapid identification of biological agents need to be devised.

The most important measure of all may be finding employment for former Soviet biological-weapons scientists, many of whom are now unemployed or underpaid. If even a few of these scientists decide to assist terrorists or the states that support them, the results could be calamitous.

Some steps can be taken immediately. We can toughen the laws governing acquisition of biological agents. As the law now stands, it is not illegal to possess biological agents. Dermatologists use botulinum toxin, for example, in routine procedures, such as removing wrinkles.

Since 1997, shippers and receivers of a specified list of microorganisms have been required to register with the Centers for Disease Control. But no law prohibits people from deliberately isolating biological agents from nature. Registration of all such agents should be required.

The international law gov-

erning biological weapons is also weak.

Unlike the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972 includes no inspection protocol. Had such a mechanism been in place in 1979, investigators could have looked into speculation about an outbreak of anthrax in the Russian city of Sverdlovsk (now Ekaterinburg). Russia later acknowledged that the incident was caused by an accidental release from a harnessed biological-weapons site.

No inspection regime can guarantee compliance. But the riskier and more expensive biological weapons programs become, the harder it will be for terrorists to acquire sophisticated systems for delivering them.

Terrorist attacks using biological weapons are not inevitable, and there is much that can be done to reduce the threat. It makes sense to take action now, rather than after the first deadly attack.

The writer, author of "Risk and Dread: Preempting the New Terrorists," contributed this comment to The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Democrats Fail

LONDON — I had an interview with a European diplomat who has served his time in Washington. "This is a pretty pass for your democratic age to have reached," he said. "The people, the masses, of two great nations [Spain and the United States], ready to fly at each other's throats, and only restrained by the frantic efforts of those in high responsible positions, assisted by Kings and Queens, the Pope, and even the Tsar, all working towards the righteous end of keeping the peace!"

1923: World Justice

WASHINGTON — The first gun in the fight of the Administration for membership of the United States in the Court of International Justice was fired by Secretary of Commerce Hoover. "America," he said, "has never at any time dimi-

shed her interest in the prevention of war, and to attain universal peace is one of the great ideals before all humanity. It is never wrong to recall that not only moral degeneration and loss of life flow from war, but that the delicate organization of production and commerce cannot stand another such shock."

1948: Colombia Rebels

WASHINGTON — Colombian tanks rescued personnel of the American Embassy in Bogota after rebels seized the government building and set fire to the embassy building. Delegates to the Inter-American Conference meeting in Bogota were determined to continue the hemisphere meetings. Correspondents told of an "almost ominous silence" over the assassination of Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, leader of the Colombian Liberal party. Gaitan's followers blamed the United States for the murder of their leader.

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UN Suspends Inquiry Into Hutu Deaths

Kabila Provides No Clues To Rwanda Refugees' Fate

By Barbara Crossette
New York Times Service

UNITED NATIONS, New York — The United Nations on Thursday suspended its investigation into allegations of massacres of Rwandan refugees in Congo, after weeks of harassment and the detention this week of a Canadian member of the team.

Mary Robinson, the UN high commissioner for human rights, said in Geneva that there was no longer any excuse for the behavior of President Laurent Kabila's government in Congo, the former Zaire.

She also raised the possibility that the investigators would be withdrawn from the country after a year of ill-fated attempts to find out what happened to tens of thousands of Hutu driven from their camps in eastern Congo in late 1996 and early 1997 by pro-Tutsi forces loyal to Mr. Kabila, who seized power last May.

"Clearly there are justifiable doubts as to the value of maintaining the investigative effort in the Democratic Republic of Congo," Mrs. Robinson said.

The UN high commissioner for refugees, Sadako Ogata, has said she believes that up to 250,000 Hutu are missing. The United States, which stalled efforts to deploy a peacekeeping force on the Rwanda-Congo border when it became clear that camps were being emptied by force, told relief officials at the time that all the refugees had gone home.

Last year Secretary-General Kofi Annan, urged on by the Clinton administration, which was trying to develop good relations with Mr. Kabila and the Tutsi-led government in Rwanda, went out of his way to create an investigative team that Congolese officials would not reject.

Mr. Annan was criticized by human rights groups for dropping the chief investigator appointed by the UN Human Rights Commission, Roberto Garretón of Chile, and reconstituting the team to make it acceptable to Mr. Kabila, who also wanted to dictate how and where the team would work.

The conciliatory approach over really worked, however. Congolese officials caused long delays in allowing the team to enter the country and begin fieldwork. The government in Kinshasa then blocked evidence-gathering missions and intimidated local witnesses. The interference culminated this week in the overnight detention of the Canadian, Christopher Harland, and the photocopying of documents taken from his luggage.

"This pattern of obstruction calls into question the promises made by the Kinshasa authorities to allow a proper investigation of grave violations of human rights committed over the past several years," Mrs. Robinson said.

Some human rights organizations have said in recent weeks that it was time to declare the mission a failure and end it.

Human Rights Watch urged Mr. Annan to withdraw the team in March, after investigators had been prohibited from examining a mass grave.

"We felt that enough is enough," said Joanna Weschler, the UN representative of Human Rights Watch. "There have been so many acts of hostility against the team."

Education

every Monday in The Intermarket



BOMB IN TURKEY — An Indian tourist gesturing to her husband, who was among nine people wounded slightly by a blast in central Istanbul on Friday. No group claimed responsibility for the bombing.

BUDGET: \$50 Billion U.S. Surplus Is Now Considered Likely

Continued from Page 1

bring an enormous bulge in revenue this month and put the budget for the year in the black.

If the surplus for April and the remainder of the fiscal year are equal to the \$89 billion surplus posted in the second half of fiscal 1997, then the surplus for all of 1998 would be \$18 billion, although almost all analysts believe the surplus will be much greater in the second half of the year.

And if revenue continues to grow in the second half of the fiscal year, the surplus for 1998 could reach \$75 billion.

The rapid change in the surplus estimates and their widespread dispersion is not unusual even with the fiscal year half over.

"The truth is that nobody knows what

the surplus is going to be," said Robert Reischauer of the Brookings Institute, a former director of the Budget Office.

Mr. Reischauer said, however, that he believed that projections in the range of \$60 billion to \$80 billion were "wishful thinking."

"But anything from \$20 billion to \$50 billion is not out of the question at all," he added.

Whatever the surplus turns out to be, achieving it will be all the more remarkable because of some of the decisions made in an agreement last year between Mr. Clinton and the Republican-controlled Congress.

The deal, which did not anticipate a surplus until 2003, included spending increases and tax cuts that were expected to push this year's budget about \$21 billion in the direction of a higher deficit.

The Treasury will use whatever surplus materializes this year to pay down a portion of the national debt. If the surplus were \$75 billion, there would be that much less debt outstanding on Oct. 1. That would lower the government's net interest bill for 1999 by about \$5 billion and give a boost to next year's surplus.

Anatole Dauman Dies at 73; Producer at French Forefront

The Associated Press

PARIS — The French movie producer Anatole Dauman, 73, who worked with such film masters as Jean-Luc Godard, Wim Wenders and Andrei Tarkovsky, and defected from the French cinema against the influence of Hollywood, died of a heart attack Wednesday.

Mr. Dauman, who was born in Warsaw, was the producer of such classics as Alain Resnais' "Night and Fog," one of the first attempts to deal with the Holocaust on film, and Chris Marker's "La Jetée."

In a career spanning more than three decades, Mr. Dauman worked on movies such as "Paris, Texas" and "Wings of Desire" with Mr. Wenders, and "Moulin Rouge" with Mr. Godard.

He also produced Volker Schlöndorff's "The Tin Drum," Nagisa Oshima's "Empire of the Senses," Mr. Resnais' "Hiroshima, My Love" and two films by Robert Bresson, "Au Hasard Balthazar" and "Mouchette."

Archbishop Seraphim, 84, Greek Orthodox Leader

ATHENS (AP) — Archbishop Seraphim, 84, the head of Greece's Orthodox Church who used the faith's political might in momentous struggles and tempestuous feuds, died Friday in the Athens hospital where he was admitted Feb. 25 with a viral infection.

Archbishop Seraphim, appointed as head of the church in 1974, was one of the few remaining members of the old guard who guided the country after the restoration of democracy following the military government that ruled from 1967 to 1974.

But during his reign, Archbishop Seraphim squabbled with conservative and Socialist government leaders alike. His most dramatic clash came in the mid-1980s when the prime minister at the time, Andreas Papandreu, a Socialist, tried to expropriate the church's vast land holdings.

Archbishop Seraphim eventually won the battle and in retaliation communicated seven government officials.

DEATH: Sane Enough to Be Executed?

Continued from Page 1

question is nearly a century old and has not been used since 1951.

The statute gives little guidance to Judge William McGivern of Marin County Superior Court as he struggles to figure out how to decide if Mr. Kelly, described by a defense attorney as a "walking vegetable," should die for his crimes.

If the jury decides that Mr. Kelly is not competent to be executed, a legal controversy will be laid to rest, but an equally thorny medical issue will arise. For Mr. Kelly, 38, would be sent to a mental institution until he is cured. If cured, he will then be sent to die.

"It gets into the bizarrest area of the law," said Victor Streib, dean of the law college at Ohio Northern University and an expert on the death penalty. "If someone is found to be insane, then they're sent into treatment. If the goal of treatment is to get them well, they're executed. If they stay crazy, their life is saved."

Mr. Kelly began his march toward death row on a Friday morning in late November 14 years ago when he was picked up by a hitchhiker named Sonia Reed. Her body, naked from the waist down, was later found behind a headstone at a San Bernardino memorial business. She had been shot twice and left for dead.

The next morning, Mr. Kelly picked up Ursula Houser, tried to rape her and shot and killed her. Her body, also naked from the waist down, was found in a San Bernardino alley with a bullet in the head.

The final victim was 11-year-old Danny Osemowski, shot three times in the face on Thanksgiving Day as he fought to prevent Mr. Kelly from kidnapping his 13-year-old cousin, Shannon Prock.

Mr. Kelly was convicted of murder and attempted rape in 1986 for the deaths of Miss Houser and Miss Reed. Two years later, he was convicted of Danny's murder and sent to San Quentin State

Prison to await execution. But a lot can happen in 12 years on death row.

"It's the most stressful confinement anywhere," said Michael Radelet, chairman of the sociology department at the University of Florida and author of a book called "Executing the Mentally Ill."

"By definition, a certain proportion of people will go nuts living under those conditions for a number of years," he said. "And this guy didn't start with a full deck of cards."

Horace Kelly's youth was a never-ending stream of abuse — sexual assault and physical attack that spanned the decades and bridged the generations of his troubled and violent family.

Mr. Kelly's attorneys argue that their client had a well-documented history of mental impairment, starting with traces at age 2, progressing through special education classes in elementary and high school and accelerating after moving to Southern California.

Over the years, reports by prison and court-appointed psychiatrists noted this mental deterioration:

• 1991: Mr. Kelly has "bizarre delusions and hallucinations, incoherence, catatonic behavior, and inappropriate effect."

• 1993: "Mr. Kelly appeared actively psychotic and gravely disabled." And "DIAGNOSIS: Schizophrenia, chronic, undifferentiated type, in partial remission."

• 1995: "He is now suffering from a psychotic mental disorder of such severity that it precludes his capacity to appreciate his current legal position and make rational choices with respect to the current court proceedings."

In the course of the trial, jurors will hear witnesses from both sides and then grapple with the question of Mr. Kelly's sanity.

It will be the first time that a California jury will face such a last-minute decision since an inmate was found competent for execution by a 9-to-3 vote in 1951.

BOOKS

THE AVENGERS

By Toby Miller. 192 pages. Paperback, \$19.95. Indiana University.

Reviewed by Carolyn Banks

A SCHOLARLY book about "The Avengers"? A book in which the author — without a twinge of irony, mind you — tweaks academics for "licensing their own pleasures as professional acts of theory and critique..."? A book that delights in using 50-cent words when 10-cent ones would have done (like narrative, actants, alterity, problematize and — what appears to be the author's fave — diegesis) but that I nonetheless adored reading? Yes, Toby Miller's "The Avengers" is the very one.

This alibi should suggest how powerful the subject matter of a book can be. And Miller's, a tribute to the enduring 1960s British television series, has a lot of fun stuff in it besides.

But there's more. Diana Rigg's character's name, for instance, is said to have come from a publicist who wrote that the female character who followed Honor Blackman's portrayal of Mrs. Gale should have "Man Appeal." In her notes, the publicist shortened this to "M Appeal." And when she read it aloud — well, there you go. "This is my favorite creation myth," the author says.

And where did those cat suits come from? "Three months before miniskirts appeared in British boulogues, one was purchased from Courreges for Rigg to wear on screen. The mini drew protests from the U.S. networks and was soon

displaced by the emma peeler, a ribbed jersey" jumpsuit.

Diana Rigg's own take on the series? Miller quotes a Radio Times interview during which Rigg said, "Thank God one is remembered for something — and it wasn't absolute rubbish."

The quotes from television columns that Miller resurrects are one of the book's best features. One from a 1984 TV Guide pronounces Rigg "too smart to fool herself into believing that [appearing in the play 'King Lear'] will finally stop people from thinking of black leather whenever her name is mentioned."

Are you getting the feeling that Patrick Macnee's portrayal of John Steed is pretty much ignored? Well, it isn't. Steed is, Miller tells us, part of the gentleman spy tradition that emerged in the post-Victorian era. Miller cites a long list of Steed's predecessors to prove that espionage had become "an acceptable part of ruling-class amateurism." Macnee is said to have copied his portrayal of Steed from a 1939 Ralph Richardson film role, "down to the umbrella." Steed, including the vintage Bentley that he drove through much of the series, is said to represent tradition, whereas Mrs. Peel, behind the wheel of her Lotus, stands in for modernity.

But there's some early gender-bending going on in "The Avengers." Brian Clemens, who wrote many of the episodes, said that the series never could have been made in America. "They would never have allowed us to have an effete-looking hero in a bowler hat carrying an umbrella."

From the start "The Avengers" defied the norm. "Casting a woman in an adventure series in the first place, and then not having her romantically involved with the male lead, shocked network executives of the time, who continued to lobby for the pair to make it together."

But let's be clear here: "Sex was not sanitized out of the series." It's just flipped about. Steed foils villains by tripping them with his umbrella, while Emma Peel flings them over her shoulder. There's a lot of sexual innuendo in the banter of the starring pair, but it's the woman who's preoccupied with, say, cleaning her gun or finishing a paper on thermodynamic physics.

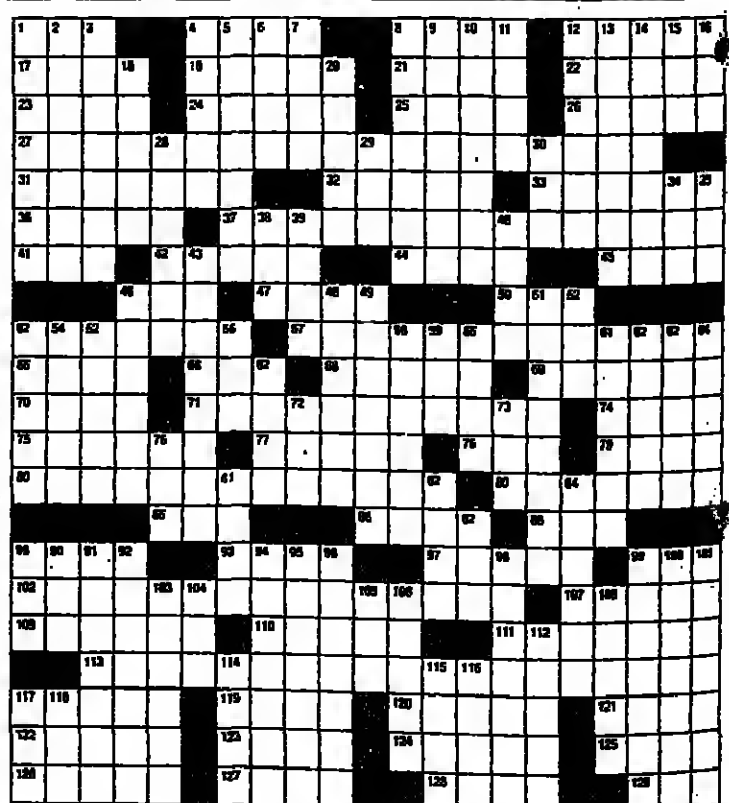
Over and above plot, there was "how the multifaceted ethos of the program worked." See? Like me, you probably never realized, when you plopped yourself down to watch this show, that you were really into some heavy-duty, sociopolitical stuff. Miller does a number on this throughout, so much so that when you finish this book, you'll be congratulating yourself for your prescience.

Carolyn Banks, who writes mysteries, wrote this for The Washington Post.

NEW AUTHORS

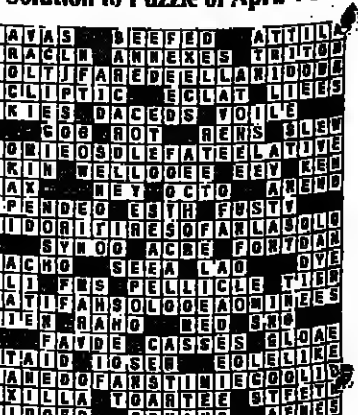
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PLUS TAX By Randolph Ross



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Solution to Puzzle of April 4-5



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CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL CHURCH (interdenominational & Evangelical) Sunday Service 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. Kds Welcome. De Chouaard 2, 5, Amsterdam. Tel: 020-541 8612 or 020-6451 653.

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NICE: Holy Trinity (Anglican), 11 rue Bula, Sun. 11:00 a.m. Tel: 33 04 93 67 95 83.
ANTIBES: St Hugh's, 22, av. de la République, 06100 Antibes. Tel: 33 04 93 67 95 83.

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SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH (Roman Catholic, MASS IN ENGLISH), 6300 Sun. 9:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 6:30 p.m. St. Vincent, 1000 a.m. Rev. Bill Ronzhammer, Pastor. Tel: 01 43 33 04 06. Mass 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. Mass 10:15 to 11:00 a.m.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP IN EUROPE
"The Democratic Consensus" will be the subject of Rev. Offit Miller's sermon at the April 12 service of the UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF PARIS. April 28 Service led by Rev. Kenneth Sawyer. Both at 12 noon. Payer de l'Arme, 7 bis, rue du Pasteur-Wagner, Paris 11e. Metro Bastille. Non-dogmatic religious education for children and teens. Meditation and spiritual growth groups. Social activities. Information: 01 30 82 75 33
United Kingdom: Tel: (+44) 171 240 2384, Email: ga@unitarian.org.uk, Web: <http://www.unitarian.org.uk>
Belgium Unitarian Universalist Fellowship - A group of religiously liberal Americans and Europeans that meet the last Saturday evening of every month in Brussels. Please contact Victor Roberts-Gasser at (+32) 2 650 0226 or at email address: 1004102125@comuserve.com
Netherlands Unitarian Universalist Fellowship - Meets 1st Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m. For more info visit our website: <http://www.godwin.com/Netherlands/1004102125.htm>

ROME
ST. PAUL'S WITHIN-THE-WALLS, Sun. 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Church School for children & Nursery care provided. 1 p.m. Spanish Eucharist. Via Napoli 58, 00184 Rome. Tel: 395 498 3339 or 395 474 3698.

BRUSSELS/WATERLOO
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, 1st Sun. 9 & 11:15 Holy Eucharist. All other Sundays: 11:15 Holy Eucharist and Sunday School. 553, chaussée de Louvain, Ohain, Belgium. Mail: 61, rue Collette, 1410 Waterloo. Tel: 322 394 3058.

WIESBADEN
THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, Sun. 10 a.m. Family Eucharist. Frandfurter Strasse 3, Wiesbaden, Germany. Tel: 49611 206574.

EUROPEAN BAPTIST CONVENTION
BERLIN
L.B.C., Berlin, Rotherbaum Str. 13, (Steglitz). Sunday, Bible study 10:45, worship Service 12:00 noon. Charles Warford, pastor. Tel: 030 774 4670.

BRATISLAVA - SLOVAKIA
L.B.C., The Inventa, Karlovska 64, Auditorium 104B. Worship Sun. 10:00. Tel: (07) 715397.

BREMEN
L.B.C., Hohenthorp, Hermann-Bose-Str. 17:00. Pastor, telephone: 0421-78 648.

BUCHAREST
L.B.C., Str. Xenopoli nr. 2. This is next to Gradiņa-Island. 11:45 - 12:15: Contact Pastor GILL Boudart. Tel: 330-0273 or 321-9472.

BUDAPEST
L.B.C., meets at Morica Zsigmond Gimnazium, Torokszék ut 48-54, Sun. 10:00. Tel: 250-3922.

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L.B.C., World Trade Center, 36, Drahov Tzankov Blvd. Worship 11:00. James Duke, Pastor. Tel: 971-2192.

DARMSTADT - GERMANY
L.B.C., Wilhelm-Leuschner Str. 104, Darmstadt-Griesheim. Bible Study Sun. 10:00. Tel: (0611) 9411-0505.

FRANKFURT
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, Ev.-Friedrichs-Gemeinde, Sodenstr. 11-18, 60380 Bad Homburg. Sunday Worship, Nursery & SS: 11:20 a.m. Mid-week ministries, Pastor M. Levey. Call/Fax: 06173-92728.

GENEVA
UNITARIAN CHURCH, 1st & 3rd Sun. 10 a.m. Eucharist; 2nd & 4th Sun. Morning Prayer. 3 rue de Montboux, 1201 Geneva, Switzerland. Tel: 4122 732 80 78.

MUNICH
THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, Sun. 11:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sunday School, Nursery care provided. Seyboldstrasse 4, 81545 Munich (Hartmannstrasse). Tel: 4969 64 81 85.

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ST. PAUL'S WITHIN-THE-WALLS, Sun. 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist 11:30 a.m. Church School for children & Nursery care provided. 1 p.m. Spanish Eucharist. Via Napoli 58, 00184 Rome. Tel: 395 498 3339 or 395 474 3698.

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ST. PAUL DE VENICE - FRANCE
St. Paul de Venice - France L.B.C., Espace St. Claire, Level 10, Bible Study Sun. 9:30. Worship Sun. 10:45. Tel: (04 93) 24 92 61.

PRAGUE
L.B. FELLOWSHIP, Vinohradska 68, Prague 3. Sun. 11:00. Tel: (02) 311 7974.

WATERLOO BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP
Sun. 10:00 at Swedish Church, across from MacDonalds. Tel: (02) 553 1585.

ZÜRICH - SWITZERLAND
L.B.C. of Zürich, Ghelstrasse 31, 8003 Rüschlikon. Worship Services Sunday mornings 10:30. Tel: 1-4810018.

ASSOC. OF INT'L CHURCHES
BERLIN
AMERICAN CHURCH IN BERLIN, cor. of Clay Alley & Potsdamer Str., S.S. 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Tel: 030-6132021.

GENEVA
EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH 20 rue Verdaine. Sunday worship 9:30. In German 11:00 in English. Tel: (022) 310.508.

JERUSALEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH of the Redeemer. Old City, Muntan Rd. English worship Sun. 9 a.m. All are welcome. Tel: (02) 6281-045.

PARIS
AMERICAN CHURCH IN PARIS. Worship 11:00 a.m. 65, Quai d'Orsay, Paris 7. Bus 63 at door, Metro Alma-Marcousses or Invalides.

ZÜRICH
INTERNATIONAL PROTESTANT CHURCH English speaking, worship service, Sunday School & Nursery, Sundays 11:30 a.m. Schanzengasse 25. Tel: (01) 2622525.

سكس من الامل

All Hail, er, Nat Tate?

Elaborate Hoax Adorns Painter With Fame

By Sarah Lyall
New York Times Service

LONDON — Nat Tate was a brilliant but almost forgotten American artist of the mid-20th century whose greatest work, a series of drawings of bridges, was inspired by Hans Crane's famous poem "The Bridge," which was mostly lost when he committed suicide at the age of 31. That's how he is described in an article by the British novelist William Boyd in the current issue of *Modern Painters* magazine. It tells how a meeting with Georges Braque in the autumn of 1959 seemed to drive Tate to despair, forcing him to question not only his value as an artist but his very existence. Several months later, after destroying most of his work, he boarded New York's Staten Island ferry, removed his tweed coat, hat and scarf and threw himself into the bay. His body was never found.

For a brief, shining moment, Tate's vibrant, drink-fueled life and untimely death apparently made him the toast of the New York art world.

At a party given at Jeff Koons's gallery in New York on March 31 to celebrate the current issue of *Modern*

Painters, Boyd's article was read aloud to a group of artists and critics. Boyd, who unveiled Nat Tate as a fictional creation in an article in *The Independent* of London, which was being out of the loop. "I think everybody — and we're all guilty — is afraid to admit that they haven't heard about someone," he said.

Bernard Jacobson, the London art dealer who, with Bowie, is one of the founders of 21 Publishing, which issued Boyd's book, said that pretending to know more than you do is hardly uncommon. In fact, he said, several people at the party told him they had met the fictional Nat Tate.

The book says Tate also knew John Richardson, the Picasso biographer; Picasso himself and Peggy Guggenheim, who is described in the book as having enjoyed a six-week affair with Tate. "He was a great lover," she is quoted as saying. "Almost in a class with Sam Beckett, who had bad skin."

Jacobson said, "People are very scared not to know people and not to know things." But Jacobson and his co-conspirators — Boyd, 21 Publishing and the editors of *Modern Painters* — said Boyd's work was not intended to expose the shallowness of the New York art world. Instead, they said, it was meant as a sort of artwork itself.

"I see it as a work of conceptual art," said Valerie Shields, spokeswoman for 21 Publishing in New York. "It's a work that challenges people to pay close attention to what makes something real by playing with the concept of a real artist."

The book freely mixes fact and fiction, as Tate interacts with famous artistic figures in the way of Woody Allen in "Zelig." Picasso barely speaks to him; Braque is gracious but gently corrects his pronunciation of van Gogh.

Michael Steinberg, an art dealer in New York and a contributor to *Modern Painters*, said: "The book functions the way theater functions, in that anyone in the art world who reads the first line, which talks about a gallery that doesn't



The novelist William Boyd.

exist, realizes that they're in the domain of fiction. You start to read the book, and it makes reference to people who we do know, and then you start to read it as if it were a real story."

Boyd created the two drawings supposedly by Tate that are reproduced in the book. The Tate painting in the book was the result of a collaboration by him and 21 Publishing.

ALTHOUGH there are many literary precedents for mixing fact and fiction in the same work — real people crop up as characters, for instance, in Tolstoy's "War and Peace," in "Ragtime," by E.L. Doctorow and in "Underworld," by Don DeLillo — Boyd turns the convention around, by sneaking fictional characters into what looks to be a work of nonfiction.

"It seemed that putting 'a novel' or 'a fictional memoir' on the book would rob it of its intrinsic value," he said. In publishing the book this way, Boyd said, he was intending to engage in a "literary exercise," not to send up the New York art scene. "I wanted to see what illusions I could spin, what tricks I could turn," he said. "We were going to present it completely deadpan. We imagined there would be a slow burn of realization and a thrill at the peeling away of the layers, as the fictiveness slowly emerged."

With the cover blown even before the book was circulated, it was hard to find anyone who had been to the Koons party who was willing to admit claiming to know Nat Tate. On the contrary, several partygoers said that they had been struck by how unknown he was.

"I remember very clearly when David Bowie was reading from the book and I thought, 'Never has anyone breathed the name of this person to me before,'" said the author Siri Hustvedt, who said the book seemed to be part of "the English tradition of the book."

And Holly Solomon, the gallery owner, said that while she had been perplexed by the tale of Nat Tate — "I kept asking people who this person was and nobody seemed to know," she said — the story of his life and death did not strike her as at all implausible.

"I tell you quite frankly, strange things do happen in the art world," she said. "Artists have to be tough, and it's a tough world out there. Did it seem plausible that somebody would finally jump in the river because they're undiscovered? I would find it sad, but not unbelievable."

Turner: From Science to Art

By Souren Melikian
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Bright ideas can yield unpredictable results. No one had yet thought of investigating the connection between "Turner and the Scientists," for which the evidence — sketchbooks, watercolors, pictures and all — is on view at the Tate Gallery until June 21.

James Hamilton, author of the biography "Turner, a Life," who put together the show (one almost feels tempted to say the "documentation" for a book that is short but as relentless as a doctoral dissertation), at first makes a fascinating case. He paints a picture of English society in which scientists and artists intermingled. Their meeting ground was that preeminently British invention, the club. Turner, a member of the Athenaeum, must have been on nodding terms with all the great inventors of the day there. He knew Michael Faraday, with whom he discussed the nature of pigments and the light effects in the sky — one of the artist's obsessions. Mary Somerville, a friend, may have prompted the artist's deep interest in magnetism. Conversely, artist fascinated the scientists. Faraday was a collector of drawings and prints, among which were two etchings by Rembrandt.

Somerville went one better. She was a painter, perhaps not as good as Hamilton suggests, but one with a deeply poetic vision. She perceived beauty but could not quite transcribe it. The lucid scientist did not fool himself: "I attempted to paint what Turner alone could have represented," she wrote when describing, in beautiful prose, a storm over Lake Albano.

Not only did Turner hobnob with scientists, but his mind was cast in the same mold, as Hamilton demonstrates. Almost apologizing for discussing architecture, which does not come under the heading "science" strictly speaking, the art historian reveals that the painter was more than an enlightened amateur. Turner enjoyed the skills of a practicing architect. He participated in projects with James Wyatt and produced with him a "Projected Design for Fonthill Abbey, Wiltshire." He designed a gallery in his house and years later had the whole house effectively rebuilt to his plans.

Most surprising perhaps are the diagrams that the painter drew for the lectures he gave as professor of perspective from 1811 to 1828. They reveal a deep-seated love of the technicalities of architecture in sparsely elegant neoclassical garb.

Without this mastery of perspective, the feeling of depth and space that his highly abstract compositions were later to retain would have been inconceivable. Although Hamilton does not say that in so many words, he implies it and thus far his book and the show that illustrates it, are truly illuminating. Then, like one of those 11th-hour witnesses produced by the defense, whom lawyers for the prosecution turn around, the material dramatically undermines the central thesis, i.e. that Turner, the man curious about technology, observed and painted industry for the sake of its novelty.

The artist certainly looked at it at times. He could not have done otherwise

waves and the cloud drapes across the huge sky. That one of the boats seen in the Honfleur bay that the painter sketched in the 1830s happens to be a steamship matters very little. The choice of the site to which Boudin, Monet and others would later revert is more significant. Above all, what makes the gouache astonishingly advanced for its time is the handling of the landscape in patches and shades of color. There are just enough indications to keep it within the limits of figurative art.

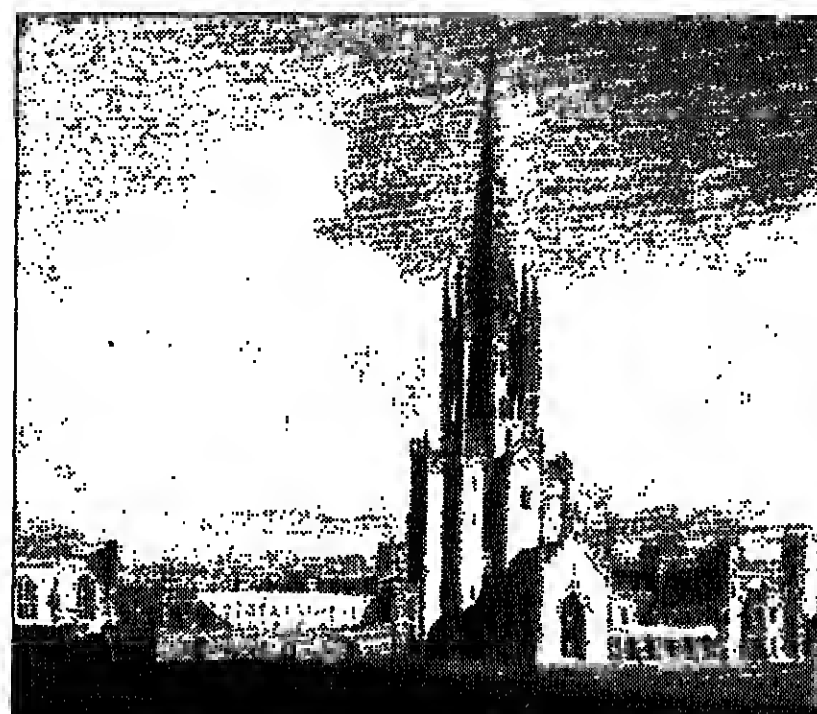
As he looked at "Industry and Construction after 1815," to use a phrase coined by Hamilton for one of the sections in the show, Turner gave less and less attention to specifics of the subject matter. "Burning Blubber," which he drew in 1840 in his sketchbook, "Whalers," is about movement, color and light. It is virtually impossible to make out any figurative element. When jotting down these visual notes for his own use, Turner was clearly unconcerned about technicalities of the subject, industrial or otherwise.

In the finished works intended for display, executed toward the end of his life, the elements that still define the pictures as figurative become almost submerged in a blaze or a haze. "Rain, Steam, and Speed" — the Great Western Railway — done in 1844 teeters on the verge of abstraction. The dark diagonal of a rail-

way bridge darting out of some invisible point lost amidst the golden and white specks is rendered in impressionistic fashion. The front part of the engine rushing forth in the distance is suggested by a bright yellow splotch (the burning coals) under the black pipe of the chimney. The perspective, the feeling of space are retained, but the material detail has almost vanished, as in a dream.

Turner, the architect, the man gripped by technical inventions, cast aside structure and gimmicks. In "Hurrah for the Whaler Erebus! Another Fish!" the whaler appears far away as a ghostly white apparition emerging from the mist. In the foreground, at left, an indistinct cluster of barks with shadowy figures bending forward conveys the feeling of human presence and feverish activity, but does not really depict it. Every outline is lost in a blur, everything is light and movement, as if the artist were transcribing on canvas some overwhelming inner illumination.

Was the painter remotely influenced in his artistic perception by his interest in science, or did he give industrial inventions a privileged place in his oeuvre? Hardly. As with every towering master, it was the vision that recast the subject, not the other way around.



A detail from "A Projected Design for Fonthill Abbey, Wiltshire," 1798.

NAT TATE

BY WILLIAM BOYD



The jacket of Boyd's "Nat Tate."

Painters, based in London, and the publication of Boyd's book, "Nat Tate: An American Artist," several hundred artists, dealers, writers and assorted glitterati listened as the rock star David Bowie read aloud a somber excerpt from the book.

But there was something peculiar about Tate, even in an art world used to peculiar things. He never existed.

Nat Tate, the quiet, illegitimate son of a housekeeper whose obsession with a father who may have drowned at sea probably fueled his passion for bridges, was a figment of Boyd's vivid imagination.

"I have always been deeply intrigued by that era of American painting," Boyd, one of Britain's best-known novelists, said in an interview, describing how he came to write "Nat Tate." "I also wanted to play quite

consciously with the ideas of reality and fiction. This is pushing the envelope, and taking it possibly as far as you can go. It is conscious and deliberate, almost a manipulation of our verification process."

Back at the party, however, the guests who were paying attention to the readings seemed to accept the tale of Nat Tate at face value, having no reason to believe otherwise. Some freely admitted to never having heard of him. Others, however, weren't so sure.

"I asked people at the party whether Tate was terribly well known," said David Lister, arts news editor of *The Independent* of London. "They would always answer that he was 'not hugely famous' or 'not particularly well known.'"

One person, Lister said, claimed that Tate "didn't have much of a reputation outside New York," while another murmured, "The abstract expressionists, you know — there were a lot of hangers-on."

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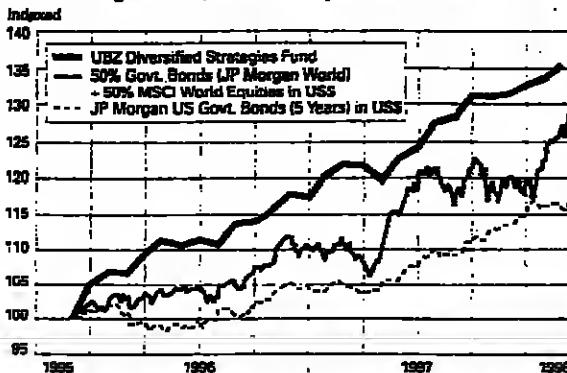
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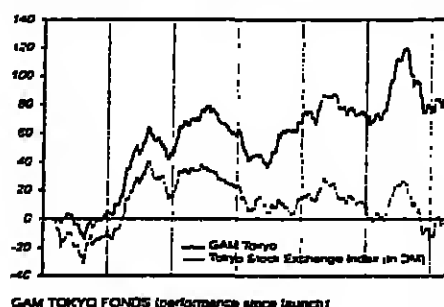
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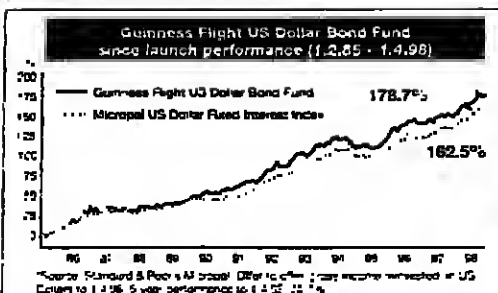
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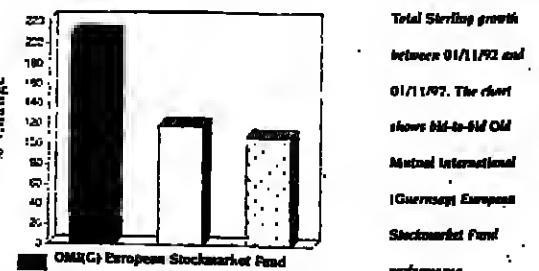
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The Merger Fund Limited*	US Equity/Merger	14.08%	92.59%
Green & Smith Capital Mgmt.	Arbitrage (from 01/01/96)		2.59
Winchester Global Securities Limited			
PIMCO Stocks PLUS Series*	S&P 500 Index	40.97%	73.33%
Pacific Inv. Mgmt. Co.	Tracking (from 31/12/96)		16.46
Winchester Convertible Plus	US Convertible	18.33%	83.91%
Oaktree Capital Mgmt.	Debt (from 31/12/90)		7.06

* The managers of these funds have U.S. funds employing substantially the same policies with histories going back to 1990 (Smith & Green) and 1987 (PIMCO).

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Far Eastern Growth	8.11.86	+289.9	+32.3	AAA
Japanese Growth	30.11.91	-7.7	-20.3	—
Asian Smaller Markets	8.3.93	+38.2	+37.2	AA
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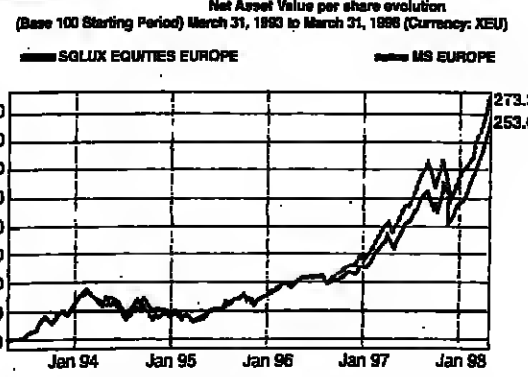
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The P3P standard, which is scheduled to be finalized in May, foreshadows new Internet technology that will make each visit to a Web site a complicated exchange of information in which a personal computer will have the opportunity to automatically disclose a range of information covering every conceivable category, from birth data to shoe size, depending on rules set by the computer user.

At the same time, each Web site will be forced to disclose its policy for using the information it is gathering, hopefully giving the computer user the ability to decline to share data about himself.

"This will put users in control of their personal information," said Nick Grouf, Firefly's president and chief executive officer.

Telecom Italia Plans To Link With C&W

Alliance Would Share Clients Worldwide

Continued from Page 11

ROME — Telecom Italia SpA and Cable & Wireless PLC said Friday they were in talks to combine telecommunications networks and share clients in Asia, the Americas and Europe to become the world's second-largest carrier of international calls.

As a first step toward a planned global alliance, Telecom Italia said it would buy the British telephone company's 20 percent stake in Bouygues Telecom SA, France's third-largest mobile-phone service, in which it already owns 10 percent. The purchase, terms of which were not disclosed, would turn Telecom Italia into Bouygues Telecom's biggest shareholder.

Telecom Italia said its planned link-up with Cable & Wireless did not rule out a yet-to-be-finalized alliance with the U.S. giant AT&T Corp. "The two things are separate," a Telecom Italia spokesman said. "Our negotiations with AT&T will carry on."

The Italian company, whose monopoly for fixed-line telephone service in Italy ended Jan. 1, is especially strong in Europe and Latin America. Its Telecom Italia Mobile SpA unit is the largest mobile phone company in Europe.

Cable & Wireless, Britain's second-largest telephone company,

focuses on the Asia-Pacific region and the Caribbean, with a major presence throughout the British Commonwealth—regions in which Telecom Italia is nearly absent.

Separately, Telecom Italia said its net profit rose nearly 11 percent last year, to 3.4 trillion lire (\$1.9 billion), as sales rose nearly 10 percent, to 42.8 trillion lire.

But profit was lifted primarily by its non-core, overseas operations. Profit for its core business of providing fixed-line service in Italy fell 10 percent, to 2.3 trillion lire, because of 800 billion lire restructuring charges.

Telecom Italia also said it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Italy's state broadcaster, Radiotelevisione Italiana, or RAI, to form a joint company that will manage, operate and distribute a digital TV and multimedia platform for the Italian market.

The planned alliance of Telecom Italia and Cable & Wireless would compete against rival groupings with global telecommunications ambitions, such as Global One, which unites Deutsche Telekom AG, France Telecom SA and Sprint Corp., as well as against AT&T's venture with Unisource NV, a grouping of Dutch, Swiss and Swedish telephone companies.

(Bloomberg, AP, Reuters)



AT THE GATES — Indonesian students clashing Friday with riot police in Surabaya as the police blocked the students from taking their anti-government protest from the campus into the streets.

Indonesia Unveils Plan For IMF Pact

Continued from Page 11

JAKARTA — Indonesia announced sweeping measures Friday to end its worst economic crisis in decades and set target dates for the implementation of key reforms to add credibility to the package.

The reforms include a 155 trillion rupiah (\$18.24 billion) plan to help overhaul Indonesia's banking system as part of an International Monetary Fund agreement.

A spokesman for the IMF in Washington said the Fund's board had not yet discussed or voted on the reform package.

The new plan, which comes after the IMF suspended aid from a \$40 billion bailout plan because the government failed to keep promises in two earlier pacts, also outlines steps to end foreign ownership restrictions. It includes provisions to beef up bankruptcy laws, help companies repay foreign debt and sell shares in state companies.

"If this program is implemented seriously and fully, we believe our economy will gradually improve," said Giniandjar Kartasasmita, the Indonesian coordinating minister for economics and finance.

Most dramatically, though, the latest IMF plan aims to rein in the central bank, which has been stoking inflation by keeping crippled banks afloat. It aims to finance the Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency, a newly created government body through a government bond issue to be repaid as the agency restructures banks and sells some of those banks' assets.

For the first time, the IMF and Indonesia have acknowledged how much has been lent by the government to keep insolvent banks operating in the last few months — \$0 trillion rupiah.

Other points in the pact include: • It promises a new anti-monopoly law, moves to set up a bankruptcy law and a special bankruptcy court; and regulations for winding up of companies, mergers and acquisitions.

• The package also provided the sketch of a framework to resolve the \$74 billion in private foreign debt.

• The reform package aims to bring the rupiah down to about 6,000 to the dollar over time.

• Indonesia would also gradually raise fuel and electricity prices.

• Subsidies on rice and other foods would remain for some time.

(Bloomberg, Bridge News, Reuters)

Investor's Asia

	Hong Kong	Singapore	Tokyo
	Hang Seng	Straits Times	Nikkei 225
1997	1997	1997	1997
Exchange	Index	Index	Index
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	Closed	11,342.02
Singapore	Straits Times	Closed	1,594.05
Sydney	All Ordinaries	Closed	2,805.80
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	Closed	16,481.12 16,536.68 -0.34
Kuala Lumpur Composite		Closed	673.14 673.58 -0.41
Bangkok	SET	Closed	448.13 444.23 -0.43
Seoul	Composite Index	Closed	468.22 468.11 -0.04
Taipei	Stock Market Index	Closed	9,054.02 9,080.31 -0.40
Manila	PSE	Closed	2,193.47
Jakarta	Composite Index	Closed	5,275.85
Wellington	NZSE-40	Closed	2,305.52
Bombay	Sensitive Index	Closed	4,118.29 4,183.57 -1.55

SOURCE: REUTERS

International Herald Tribune

Bank of Japan Targets 98 in Bribery Scandal

Continued from Page 11

TOKYO — Japan's central bank punished 98 employees Friday in a bribery scandal that has shaken the country and its powerful bureaucracy. Penalties ranged from reprimands to temporary salary cuts.

The scandal involves favors granted in exchange for lavish entertainment. In just a few months, it has claimed the jobs of two ranking Finance Ministry officials, including the finance minister. Four other ministry officials have been arrested.

In addition, two Finance Ministry officials, as well as an executive at a public corporation and a national lawmaker, have hung themselves rather than face questioning by prosecutors.

The Bank of Japan, however, was considered above reproach and its involvement in the affair shocked the country.

After a senior Bank of Japan official was arrested on bribery charges, the central

bank's governor, Yasuo Matsushita, tendered his resignation last month—an unprecedented act for a Bank of Japan governor.

Mr. Hayami, who took over as the central bank chief last month, was not suspected of accepting entertainment, but accepted a voluntary pay cut of 20 percent for one month as a sign of his leadership of the institution.

The most severe punishments given by the central bank were salary cuts for five officials of 20 percent for up to five months.

The penalties mark the end of an internal inquiry of 600 employees investigated for improper conduct over the past five years.

Asahi Bank also announced Friday that it would punish officials over the bank's involvement in the entertainment scandal.

The major commercial bank said it would cut salaries for its chairman and president by 30 percent for three months. (AP, AFP)

Lockheed Gets Missile Deal, Beating Boeing

By Tim Smart

Washington Post Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Lockheed Martin Corp. defeated its arch-rival Boeing Co. on Thursday in a contest to build a stealthy, multipurpose cruise missile for the Pentagon.

The \$2 billion-plus award, which covers production of at least 2,400 Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missiles over the next decade, gives Lockheed Martin, already America's largest defense contractor, entry into the key market for cruise missiles, a segment that until now has been dominated by the former Hughes defense unit of Raytheon Co. and Boeing.

The missile is designed to hit targets such as air-defense systems from a distance of up to 100 miles (160 kilometers). It will have few sharp edges and special coatings to avoid detection by radar. The missile will be directed by an on-board guidance system working in tandem with satellite-based navigation.

Lockheed Martin and Boeing have competed since 1996 for the right to produce the missile. Boeing won an earlier competition to build the Joint Direct Attack Munition, which employs similar technologies.

The Air Force had set a maximum price of \$400,000 per missile for the program, about one-third the cost of a predecessor missile. Without providing specific numbers, Air Force officials said Thursday that Lockheed Martin's bid had been "well below" the price limit set by the agency.

Oil Output Cuts Won't Help Prices Much, Agency Says

By Reuters

LONDON — Glutted oil markets will continue to put pressure on producers despite a groundbreaking pact to curb global output and rescue battered prices, the International Energy Agency said Friday.

Supply exceeded demand by a hefty 1.5 million barrels per day in the first quarter of the year, leaving stocks to build up heavily, the West's energy watchdog said.

"Current supply exceeds demand and stocks are high, suggesting a continuation of a difficult market for producers," the Paris-based agency said in its monthly oil market report.

Last month, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries approved an agreement to remove 1.245 million barrels per day of its output from the market between April 1 and the end of the year in a bid to lift prices that had sagged to nine-year lows.

In a rare act of cooperation with OPEC, other producers such as Norway and Mexico pledged cuts last month of 270,000 barrels per day, while Russia later chipped in with cuts of 61,000 barrels.

But prices have been under pressure since the reductions were agreed because of doubts about participants' resolve to actually carry them out. Traders say it could be several more weeks before firm evidence emerges that crude sales have been curbed.

Producers have seen Brent North Sea crude average \$4.50 a barrel less so far this year than in 1997, cutting export earnings for OPEC member countries by some \$8 billion in the first quarter of 1998. The price at the end of this past trading week was \$14.13 a barrel.

The report by the energy agency said it had lowered its estimate of

global oil demand in the first quarter of 1998 by 400,000 barrels per day to 75 million barrels per day.

It said this was due to continuing mild weather in the Northern Hemisphere and a marked reduction in deliveries to South Korea in the first two months of the year.

The agency also revised downward 1998 non-OPEC supply by 300,000 barrels per day to 45.3 million barrels per day.

Further pressure on oil producers will come from European refinery maintenance, which will take a hefty 1.1 million barrels per day of capacity out of the market in May, the agency said.

SEC Approves 'Circuit Breakers'

By Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Securities and Exchange Commission on Friday approved new "circuit breakers" that let stocks fall faster before trading is halted and close the market for the day only in extreme declines.

The new market triggers generally halt trading for an hour when the Dow Jones industrial average falls 10 percent, for two hours when the Dow falls 20 percent, and for the rest of the day when the average falls 30 percent. The rules are different when stocks plunge in the afternoon, when the rules make it harder to stop U.S. stock trading. The new levels go into effect Wednesday.

JAPAN: Hashimoto's Stimulus Plan Under Fire From Liberal Democrats

Continued from Page 1

approval for his stimulus plan, delaying it further. The tax cuts are part of a larger \$75 billion rescue effort, the details of which are still being worked out.

Many analysts believe that Mr. Hashimoto's future rides on whether his plan to revive the economy works. There are conflicting opinions about whether it will make a difference, but many agree that it is too early to tell because the full details of the package are still unclear.

Some U.S. officials had been specific about what they wanted — bold action on tax cuts and public spending — to ward off a further decline in the Japanese economy. There is worldwide concern that if Japan does not recover from its slump, it will prevent all Asian economies from recovering. There is also increasing con-

cern that a prolonged decline of the world's second-biggest economy could have global consequences.

Visibly weary and clearly aware of his circling critics, Mr. Hashimoto on Friday spoke like a fighter, saying he was pressing on with his plan. He indicated he might seek to make the two-year \$50 billion tax cut permanent.

Some economists said the tax cut would have a broader impact on the market if it were permanent, and on Friday Mr. Hashimoto said, "That is basically in line with my plan."

Mr. Hashimoto's comments helped spark a recovery in the stock market late in the day. It closed down 55.54 points, or 0.34 percent, at 16,481.12. Analysts said investors were taking profits after a four-day rally of more than 1,000 points. There was no greater movement in the market, they said, because most of what Mr.

Hashimoto was disappointed.

"It's not that the market was disappointed with the policies," said Yasuo Ueki, an equity dealer at Nikko Securities. "It's just that it had already factored in most of what was announced Thursday night."

Mr. Ueki said investors were interested in seeing specific public-spending proposals. But he predicted that there would be little market activity until the meeting next week in Washington of the Group of Seven industrialized nations.

The yen also bounced back against the dollar, but much of its gain was attributed to aggressive intervention by Japan's central bank. Late in the day in Tokyo, the dollar was trading at 129 yen after falling to 127 yen. Late Thursday in New York, the dollar had been quoted at 131.2 yen. While everyone appears to rec-

ognize the problem, not all agree on the solution. Some Japanese officials fear that a tax cut is a waste of precious government money and that it will not spark consumer spending. Mr. Hashimoto initially was pursuing a policy of fiscal restraint, but as the economy continued to slide, he shifted to public spending.

The influential business newspaper Nihon Keizai Shimbun "welcomed" Mr. Hashimoto's decision to embrace tax cuts, saying "bold permanent tax cuts is the way."

But the Asahi newspaper harshly criticized Mr. Hashimoto, saying he had "bungled" decision-making and acted too slowly. The newspaper said the proposal was murky "window-dressing."

As members of his own party were chastising him for moving too quickly, Japanese business-

Markets Closed

Most financial markets in Europe and North America were closed Friday for the Easter holiday.

Most European markets will remain closed through Tuesday, but U.S. markets will trade on Monday.

men complained he was taking action too late.

Ordinary citizens reacted skeptically to the tax cuts, saying they did not understand when exactly they would see the money. "It's too little, too late," said Taro Takahashi, a retiree. "I don't believe anything anymore."

The government's Economic Planning Agency released more bad news Friday, announcing that Japan's economy was in a more severe condition than previously believed, because of weak capital investments, household spending and corporate profits.

SHORT COVER

France Reassures CFA Franc Zone

LIBREVILLE, Gabon (Reuters) — France made it clear on Friday that there was no reason to devalue Africa's CFA franc and that the franc zone would be unaffected by Economic and Monetary Union in Europe and the arrival of the euro.

Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn of France told a meeting of finance ministers in Libreville that the franc zone was an expression of solidarity between African states and between Africa and France.

"The change to the euro will not change in any way these forms of solidarity, no more than it will alter the parity of the CFA franc, which is based on solid, positive economic realities," Mr. Strauss-Kahn said.

Production Growth Slows in China

BEIJING (AFP) — Growth in China's industrial production slowed to 8.2 percent in the first quarter from 11 percent a year ago, the State Statistics Bureau said Friday.

Industrial production rose to 442.1 billion yuan (\$53.4 billion) during the quarter. Growth was 11.3 percent in January before plunging to 4.9 percent in February and rising again to 9.0 percent in March.

Star Banc to Buy Trans Financial

CINCINNATI (Bloomberg) — Star Banc Corp. said Friday it would acquire Trans Financial Inc. for \$696 million as part of its expansion program in Kentucky and Tennessee.

The buyout capped a week of bank consolidation that began with the merger of Citicorp and Travelers Inc., which created the world's largest financial-services company.

MCI Revises Quarterly Results

WASHINGTON (Bloomberg) — MCI Communications Corp. said Friday it revised fourth-quarter results to remove \$147 million in charges after the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission questioned the timing of charges.

The Washington-based long-distance company said about 90 percent of the charges would be moved to the first half of this year. The charges related to writing down equipment earmarked for disposal. Under the revised results, MCI had a fourth-quarter loss of \$244 million, compared with its previously reported loss of \$391 million.

For the Record

Britann Communications International Corp. must refund \$702,000 to customers who claim they were involuntarily transferred to the company's phone service. (AP)

AIRLINE: A Fight for Jamaica

Continued from Page 11

enable it to keep more spare parts on the island, decreasing costly delays.

American remains the airline to beat. Over the past 20 years, the competition for the Caribbean market has diminished with the failure of carriers such as Eastern, Braniff and Pan Am. Today, American flies about 63 percent of the available seats in the region, most of them through its hubs in Miami and Puerto Rico.

Mr. Stewart had a powerful motive to challenge American. Without a thriving national airline, Jamaica, with its tourism-based economy, could be held hostage to the whims of foreign carriers.

Still, Mr. Stewart — who was born in Jamaica and never attended college — did not jump at the chance to buy Air Jamaica when the government put the airline up for sale in the early 1990s. It was only after two other deals fell apart, with no other buyers on the horizon, that he put together an investment group in 1994 that paid \$37.5 million for 70 percent of the carrier. His 46 percent stake is the single largest; the government holds 25 percent and the employees 5 percent.

"I never thought I would get rich out of it," Mr. Stewart said of the Air Jamaica investment, "but I thought Jamaica and all of us would be poor without it."

As a result of Mr. Stewart's innovations at the airline, Air Jamaica says it has increased its share of passengers flown

to the island to 46 percent, from 22 percent three years ago. And Air Jamaica says it now carries two passengers for every one on American on Caribbean routes where they compete directly.

There have been setbacks, of course, and the biggest was beyond Mr. Stewart's control. In 1995, in a move to pressure foreign governments to improve their civil aviation bureaucracies, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration restricted the activities in the United States of several foreign airlines, including Air Jamaica.

The action meant that Air Jamaica could not use its new Airbus jets on routes to the United States, and had to lease other planes at high rates instead. Compounding its financial pain, a consortium of banks backed out of a loan agreement, forcing the airline to borrow at much higher interest rates.

Before, the restrictions were lifted last fall, they had cost Air Jamaica an estimated \$165 million. By that time, however, the carrier had already begun operations at its new hub at Montego Bay. Planes now leave early in the morning from Los Angeles, Chicago, New York and other cities for Montego Bay, fly on to five other islands as well as Cuba and return in the afternoon to take passengers back to the United States.

Mr. Stewart, ever optimistic, calls his business plan to make Air Jamaica profitable by 2000 conservative and says the airline could be back in the black as early as this year.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Friday, April 10

Prices in local currencies.

High Low Close Prev.

Bangkok

SET Index: 444.13

Prev: 444.23

Adv. Info. Svc. 290 288 290 292

Bangkok Bk F 107 106 107 107

SEC World 431 430 431 431

Delta Ecom. 400 398 400 399

Delta Ecom. 400 398 400 399

Delta Ecom. 400 398 400 399

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High Low Close Prev.

INA 5770 5865 5873 5850

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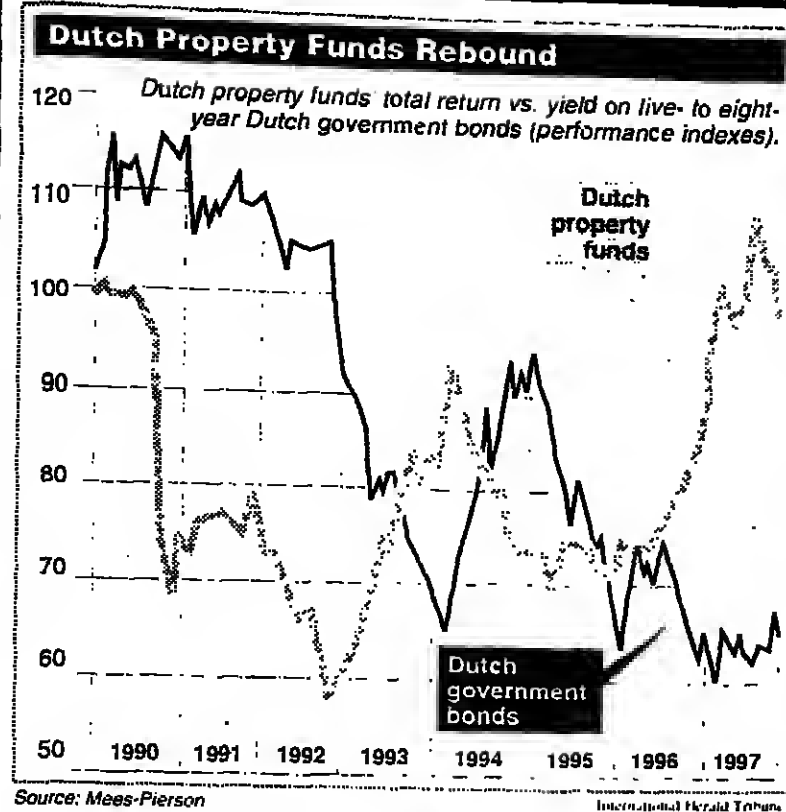
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E-mail address: moneyrep@iht.com

Website: www.iht.com/IHT/MONEY



Amsterdam Bonanza: Real-Estate Funds

INVESTORS WITH an appetite for West European assets and income are on a starvation diet these days, as rates on savings accounts and bonds hover in the low single digits across much of the Continent. It may be time for them to check out the Amsterdam Stock Exchange, home to a group of closed-end real-estate funds that typically pass most of their income along to their shareholders.

These funds look especially attractive right now. Their dividend yields are 6.5 percent and higher, compared with, for example, a miserly 3.5 percent to 3.8 percent on savings accounts in the Netherlands. At the same time, real estate around the globe, with the exception of Asia, is on an upswing after a severe downturn. American markets are booming and recovery is at various stages in Europe, promising at least two more years of healthy income before the threat of overbuilding arises.

The funds vary widely, depending on where they operate, types of properties, management and valuations. Many were originally listed in the Netherlands to be accessible to big Dutch pension funds, among the early institutional investors in real estate, but their healthy dividends have attracted individuals seeking income.

The biggest global fund is Rodamco NV, with 10 billion guilders (\$4.8 billion) in assets. Run by Robeco NV, the Rotterdam-based asset manager, it owns commercial property— from shopping centers to office complexes—in Europe and America.

Conservative management had taken a toll on Rodamco's profits in recent years, depressing the yield of its shares. Last year, however, Rodamco's profit leaped 20 percent as its managers changed their approach.

"They shortened considerably the time they held a property, bought higher-quality properties, and improved the quality of those already owned," said Herman Boom-Conradi, who follows property funds for Mees-Pierson, the securities and banking subsidiary of Fortis AG. Mees-Pierson has a buy rating on Rodamco. She figures the fund will see an 8-to-10 percent rise in profit this year.

"That's still good for a property fund," she said, "and they're also benefiting from the strong dollar, with 40 percent of their portfolio in the

U.S., and a strong pound sterling, with another 20 percent in the U.K."

Arjan Knibbe of Kempen & Co. said he, too, liked Rodamco's new approach. Although its share price has fallen over fears about its Asia holdings, he said investors overreacted.

"They only have about 6 percent of their portfolio in Asia, and the projects there are still under construction," he said. "Moreover, they will be in a good position to bottom fish when Asia turns up, and given the volatility of those markets, that could be very attractive."

Rodamco is also the Dutch property fund whose shares are trading near the value of the assets they represent, and the fall in price has produced a dividend yield of 6.8 percent. "In a historical context, that's quite high," said Mr. Knibbe.

More adventuresome investors may want to consider Mr. Knibbe's aggressive niche play, the Uni-Invest NV fund, which is 100 percent Dutch and whose "opportunistic" management "has snapped up portfolios while others have been merely looking."

Uni-Invest is heavily invested in the red-hot Dutch office market, and its fortunes have taken off with the recovery of the sector, which hit bottom in 1993. The market now suffers from a space shortage.

The fund's share price has soared 60 percent in the past two years, while the value of its portfolio has tripled, to 2.5 billion guilders. The dividend yield is a fat 9 percent-plus, based on expected payouts, in part because the company includes a portion of the proceeds from property sales. Uni-Invest's shares, however, are trading at a steep 25 percent premium to the value of the company's assets.

For a more conservative play, Ms. Boom-Conradi suggested Vest Ned Retail NV, a fund specializing in rented stores and small shopping centers. Besides efficient and innovative management, she said she expected it to benefit from a pickup in consumer spending, allowing it to raise its rents.

"We're just beginning to see the first signs of higher rentals, but it's good to be early, and the fund is already paying a high yield of 8 percent," she said.

— JUDITH REHAK

For further information:
• RODAMCO NV, Telephone: 31 10 224 1224 for Dutch investors; 352 424 4221 or 4123-978-0111 for others.
• UNI-INVEST, Telephone: 31 20 607 7400. Web site: www.uni-invest.nl
• VEST NED RETAIL, Telephone: 31 10 242 4300.

Europe's Hottest Market Is a Dutch Treat

By Judith Rehak

ALL OF THE main European markets are hot these days, but stocks in Amsterdam have been on fire for the entire decade. The AEX blue-chip index has nearly quintupled since the end of 1989, with a rise of 27 percent this year following a 41 percent gain in 1997.

"If you look across the last 15 years, the Dutch equity market has returned 20 percent per annum on a total return basis, which is just an amazing performance," said Frans van Schaik, Dutch equity strategist for ABN-Amro Bank NV in Amsterdam.

Fueling the run-up is a flood of cash from institutions and individuals. Mr. van Schaik cited the early arrivals, global investors who discovered Dutch stocks as a cheap way to get into Europe, followed by Dutch pension funds, which belatedly realized that bond returns would not meet their payout targets. These retirement funds now have a third of their assets in equities, up from 12 percent at the beginning of 1990.

But the soaring stock market is also being driven by a crowd of new participants. Conservative Dutch investors, who once shunned share ownership as a high-risk gamble, have done an astonishing about-face, diving into equities in droves as they flee record low rates of 3.5 percent to 3.8 percent on savings accounts, and worse, taxes as high as 60 percent. By contrast, the country has no capital-gains tax.

"One Dutch household in seven owns stocks now, compared with one in 20 10 years ago," said Robert Bakker, a spokesman for the Amsterdam Exchanges, which combines the primary market, the new NMAX small-companies market and the AEX Optiebeurs, or options exchange.

First-timers are buying everything from individual stocks to click funds. The latter are exotic instruments, based mostly on the AEX index, that allow each shareholder a one-time option to lock in profits—or a click—when the index reaches a specific level.

Investors who lack the cash to join the party are trying stock leasing, in which banks and mutual-fund managers lend them money, then invest it for them; the interest on the loans is tax deductible. Individuals are also the dominant players on Amsterdam's raucous, open-outcry options exchange, where they place bets on the market's big-name stocks.

The enthusiasm among small players has many observers worried.

"They think trees grow to the sky, and the ones in the options market think it will get them there faster and cheaper," said one observer at an Amsterdam brokerage. "It's very dangerous."

The spiraling index raises the question of what to buy if the Netherlands catches your fancy. There are the tried-and-true names, such as Heineken NV, the brewer, or newer ones, including ING Groep NV,

the combination of Dutch insurer ING and Baring's bank, which is seen as the cheapest of the popular financial stocks. But for the most part, analysts are carefully culling the diverse universe of Dutch companies for overlooked or underpriced opportunities.

Mr. van Schaik is looking at candidates for stock buy-backs. Such repurchasing of their own shares is a method of boosting stock prices that is widely used by American companies as an alternative to paying cash dividends. It is rare in the Netherlands, however, because it usually incurs stiff tax penalties.

Dutch companies have been pressing for tax relief on buy-backs, something Mr. van Schaik expects to happen this year. His top candidate for a buyback, and a top pick at ABN-Amro, is Philips Electronics NV. Operations-wise, the company is looking good, he said. Years of often difficult restructuring are beginning to pay off, underscored by the record earnings for 1997, with profit quadrupling to 3.29 billion guilders (\$1.6 billion) from 723 million guilders a year earlier. There is more to come, Mr. van Schaik predicted.

"We feel that the company is going to make more tough decisions on what is

a core business and what is not," he said. He expects Philips to sell its stakes in companies like the computer-chip equipment maker ASM Lithography Holding NV and PolyGram NV, the entertainment company.

That could raise as much as 30 billion guilders, which would allow them to buy back more than 50 percent of their shares," he said. Philips' shares are trading at about 150 guilders, and Mr. van Schaik's six-month target is 200.

Mr. van Schaik's second stock-buyback candidate is far more of a dark horse. He has a buy rating on Royal BorsWessanen NV, an ill-fated merger between Wessanen, a food company, and Bors, a beverage concern, that has failed to produce hoped-for synergies. The company's stock

has been a dismal performer among the Dutch bulls.

But after reporting disappointing 1997 earnings, BorsWessanen's chief executive announced that the company would focus on its food business and sell its beverage units. Mr. van Schaik is betting that it will spend some of the cash on a share repurchase.

"They have already said that if they were a U.S. company they would buy

back stock," he said.

Other analysts favor food companies whose fortunes are more upbeat, and also qualify as defensive plays should the high-flying market take a tumble.

Darrell Duhie, of MeesPierson, the securities and banking subsidiary of Fortis AG, likes CSM NV, a company in the sugar and baking business. Sugar is the cash cow, but the company's business in lactic acid is its growth engine, he said. Lactic acid is made from fermented sugar and used in products ranging from food preservatives to facial creams.

"CSM has a 65 percent global market share. Lactic acid use is growing rapidly, and it has high margins," said Mr. Duhie, who likes the company as a long-term investment. But, he warned, "Don't think you're going to jump in and make a ton of money in six months."

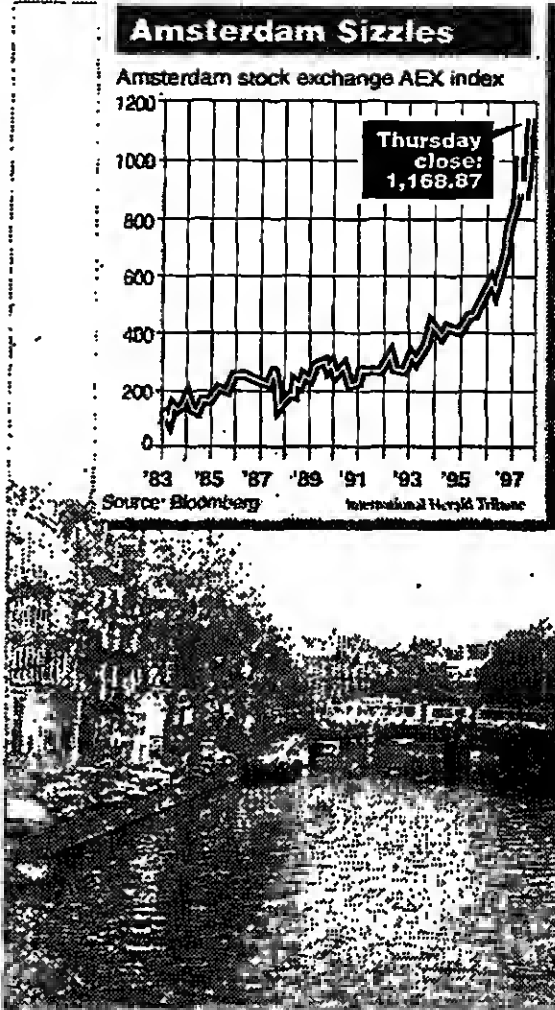
Small companies, which have lagged the big-cap index, are another avenue for entering this high-priced market. At ING Barings, Michael Bosman favors Samas Groep NV, a leading European office furnisher, which also distributes office supplies. Like many small Dutch companies, it does the bulk of its business—about 30 percent—in Germany, whose depressed market has also bottomed out, Mr. Bosman believes.

"Samas's business in the Benelux and U.K. is doing quite well, and France, which has been a problem, is looking a bit better," he added. He calculated that that would translate into earnings per share of 9 guilders for the year ending March 1999, compared with 7.20 a year earlier.

Mr. Bosman also likes Schuttersveld Holding NV, which makes synthetic products like plastic telephone bodies and parts for household appliances. After a rapid rise, the company's stock has slipped on the news that it may enter a new business, distributing sanitary fixtures such as bathtubs and sinks in Germany.

"They haven't made a final decision, and investors don't like the uncertainty," said Mr. Bosman, who said he believed the company would go ahead with its plans. "They have a great track record, and they can implement the same concept they have in their plastics division, which is to buy and consolidate regional distributors, cut costs and reach more customers."

Mutual funds that invest in Holland and have good returns over the three years through March, provided by Standard & Poor's Corp.'s *Microcap* division:



OFFSHORE FUNDS
• PARVEST HOLLAND, Telephone: 352 46 46 41 29.
• CREDIT SUISSE EQUITY FUND (U.S. NETHERLANDS), Telephone: 352 46 001 1870. Investments: 352 41 6728.
• PICTET COUNTRY FUNDS — NEDVAL, Telephone: 41 22 709 2461.
• RABOBANK HOLLAND DUTCH EQUITIES, Telephone: 352 457 8401.

DUTCH FUNDS
• ABN AMRO NETHERLANDS FUND, Telephone: Dutch investors: 31 20 629 2358, others: 352 424 949 430.
• ING BANK DUTCH FUND, Telephone: 31 20 563 9111 (for referrals to a local fund bank).
• AEX INDEX FUND, Telephone: 31 20 629 2358.
• ORANGE OEFENINGEN FUND, Telephone: 31 20 557 1571.

Q & A / Willem Burgers, Orange Fund Manager



Willem Burgers: Making small big.

A Small-Cap Fund That Thinks Big

WILLEM Burgers manages the Orange Fund, the Netherlands' largest small-cap fund, for Kempen & Co. In a market that has not been favorable to small companies, his fund, which has assets of 1.2 billion guilders (\$585.3 million), returned a stellar 35.15 percent in guilders terms last year. He spoke with Judith Rehak about his current strategy.

Q. Small Dutch companies have been lagging the larger stocks in the blue-chip AEX index. What accounts for that?

A. It isn't just the Dutch experience.

It has happened throughout Europe, as well. My feeling is that it's largely due to investment managers who follow benchmark indexes which don't include small caps. And especially in the Netherlands, there has also been an increase in equity investment products like click funds and stock leasing, which use the benchmark AEX 25 as their tool. That means available capital is aimed at the top 25 companies, so that explains the difference, particularly in the past two years.

But when you look at profit growth and valuations in small companies, they have become more attractive, not only

in the Netherlands, but elsewhere in Europe.

Q. So how are you putting your cash to work?

A. I think there will be a record number of new company introductions this year, and on top of that, there are a number of small caps that have significantly underperformed, so there are a number of good possibilities.

At the moment, we're very keen on Gamma Holding, a maker of exotic fabrics like batik. It's one of our typical candidates: under-researched and undervalued, but still a market leader in its field, even though it's been through hard times. It's one of our largest and most successful textile companies, which had an impressive track record, but got into problems three years ago in their exotic fabrics business in Africa.

The company had to reorganize, but now market conditions have recovered, and they have been making acquisitions. They are also active in industrial textiles, which have a high added value.

Today, it's trading at less than 10 times earnings and has a dividend yield of 3.6 percent in guilders. That's not bad at all, considering 3.5-4 percent for money-market yields. It's a strong company with a strong balance sheet, and we expect earnings to grow 10 percent, perhaps more, this year. We feel it is undervalued by 15-20 percent.

We also own Draka Holding, which makes cables like telecommunications cables. They're a global player, and they have consistently met all the targets set by management. More interesting is that their earnings grew more than 20 percent last year, but the valuation is still modest. Their shares are still trading at a multiple of 13 times this year's earnings, so they are at a discount to 16 times earnings for the sector.

We like the quality of the management; they've set very clear targets and the company is a favorite of European international investors. They will probably make some acquisitions as well, as they have enough cash.

Q. Are you recommending any services companies?

A. We like Unique International, one

U.K. and Dutch Firms Find Profit in the Company of Ex-Foes

By Conrad de Aenlle

THE DUTCH AND English have not always enjoyed one another's company—or companies. The competition of their respective East India companies led to considerable friction and even war. The two states and their businesses got along much better now, the army epitomized by British-Dutch enterprises such as the oil producer Royal Dutch-Shell Group, the consumer-goods company Unilever and the publisher Reed Elsevier.

"Within Europe, the Dutch have the most in common with the English culturally," said Marcus Smith, a fund manager in London for Massachusetts Financial Services Co., explaining the cross-border enterprises. He was referring largely to corporate culture.

"On shareholder value and the way companies are managed, there's more of a similarity," he observed. "There's more of an equity culture."

He contrasted the Dutch and British ways of doing things with the system of cross-holdings in France and Germany, where large companies swap stakes among themselves, making it hard for outsiders to have much say in how they are run or much chance of succeeding in a hostile takeover.

As for why Dutch and British companies tend to merge and be run from both countries, one analyst offered a cynical explanation.

"U.K. companies don't want to be taken over by Dutch companies and the other way around, so they have to merge," he said. "It has to do with pride."

You might expect some arbitrage possibilities between the branches if the price of one half gives it a different valuation than the other but analysts said any spreads that open up disappear quickly.

In fact, their structures tend to keep their prices low, analysts said. If a weak guild makes the Dutch earnings look good, for instance, investors in Britain, if the pound is stronger, will see poor results and mark the shares down accordingly. The Dutch shares will then tend to be marked down to the British level.

This week, according to Bloomberg data, the British arm of Unilever traded at a price-to-earnings ratio of 26 times, expected profit for the coming 12 months and offered a dividend yield of 1.67 percent. The Dutch arm, meanwhile, traded at a P/E ratio of 29 and yielded 1.44 percent.

Reed was priced at 22 times earnings and a 2.92 percent yield, while Elsevier fetched 24 times earnings and paid 2.72

percent. Royal Dutch was priced at 24 times earnings and yielded 2.61 percent; Shell Transport sported a P/E ratio of 22 and a yield of 3.22 percent.

THE LARGEST of the British-Dutch conglomerates is Royal Dutch-Shell Group. Despite being so big, the oil company these days is belittled. Analysts have been downgrading its shares, arguing that they are expensive relative to those of others in the industry, a business based on a commodity that has been bouncing around decade-low prices.

Analysts at Lehman Brothers said in a report that they expected the stock in Royal Dutch Petroleum Co., which owns 60 percent of the enterprise, to fall to 104 guilders (\$50) per share from its recent price of about 121.

"We believe performance will be at risk on a 12-month view," they wrote, "from low upstream volume growth and Asian exposure downstream."

In laymen's terms, Royal Dutch will be up a creek because the amount of oil it is producing is growing slowly, and sales and profits on what it does produce will be limited by weakness in one of its key markets.

The analysts add that weakness in the chemical business will depress profitability. For the company as a whole, they expect earnings per share to fall 11

percent this year and 4 percent in 1999.

Gordon Gray at Salomon Smith Barney has also trimmed his earnings estimates for Royal Dutch and recently lowered his rating on the stock to "outperform" from "buy." He said money invested in the company's shares could be put to better use elsewhere.

"While remaining very confident about the company's long-term prospects for growth and improving returns, short-term prospects suggest a swap in to British Petroleum," he said.

British Petroleum Co. "has less Asia exposure," he continued, "and it has more exposure to a possible rebound in crude prices."

He noted, too, that Royal Dutch had suffered from currency movements not just in Asia.

"The 1997 dividend is likely to disappoint U.S. investors," he said, "since it has shown no growth in dollar terms," thanks to weakness in the guild.

LEHMAN ANALYSTS likewise compare Royal Dutch unfavorably with BP, estimating the ratio of Royal Dutch's share price to 1998 earnings at about 29, compared with 20 for BP.

The analysts recommend "using any trading bounce in the near term" to sell Royal Dutch and buy BP or any of sev-

eral other European oil companies: Elf Aquitaine SA, Total SA, Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi SpA, or OMV AG.

Opinion is mixed on Unilever. Those who like the company point to its vigorous restructuring program, including the sale of its specialty-chemicals division for nearly \$5 billion as part of a drive to shed businesses outside what management considers core areas of expertise. Unilever is a more dominant player in its field than many investors give it credit for, analysts at Goldman, Sachs & Co. contend, and it will be stronger still once the restructuring is complete.

"The sluggish operating performance in the early 1990s, together with high-profile problems (involving certain products), have left many investors with the impression that Unilever has a relatively poor-quality portfolio," the analysts said. "We strongly disagree. With a few obvious exceptions, Unilever has a series of core market positions which are unusually strong."

They said they expected the company's earnings to grow by up to 15 percent a year for the next two to three years, more than others expect. Unilever is priced more attractively than other companies in its field, they say, and they include the stock in their "global priority list." Goldman's highest rating.

Continued on Page 15

Continued on Page 15

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WORLD ROUNDUP

World Cup Tickets

SOCCER France's World Cup organizers, under fire for refusing to sell all remaining tickets abroad, said Friday that they would put 110,000 tickets on sale on April 22 to residents of 18 European countries.

The tickets will be for first- and second-round matches with the exception of the opening match between Brazil and Scotland on June 10. Reservations can be made by telephone only, on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets will be restricted to four per person per match, with an overall limit of 16.

Applicants must have an address in one of 18 countries: Germany, Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Britain, Greece, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Norway, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden.

Prices will range from 145 to 350 francs (\$23 to \$57) for the first round and 200 to 300 francs (\$32 to \$81) for the second.

Ninety telephone operators will man special lines from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. French time (0600 GMT to 1800 GMT) from April 22 to 30 and from 8 A.M. after May 2. Telephone numbers will be made public next Friday.

• Giovanni Trapattoni said in newspaper interviews Friday that he would quit his job as coach of Bayern Munich at the end of the season. "Enough, I'm coming back to Italy, to my world," he said. "I don't have a club to go to, but I don't want to stay here anymore."

(Reuters)

Sri Lankan Suspended

ATHLETICS Asia's fastest woman, Susantha Jayasinghe of Sri Lanka, was suspended Friday after a second urine sample tested positive for a banned steroid, officials said. Jayasinghe won the 200-meter silver medal at last year's world championships.

(AP)

Bruins Back in Playoffs

HOCKEY The Boston Bruins no longer have to worry about missing the NHL playoffs this season. After missing the playoffs for the first time in 30 years last season, the Bruins made sure it would not happen again with a 4-1 victory over the New York Islanders.

(AP)

McLaren Still Fastest

GRAND PRIX David Coulthard maintained McLaren's domination by setting the fastest time in Friday's opening practice session for this weekend's Argentine Grand Prix. Michael Schumacher was second in a Ferrari.

(Reuters)

Tee Time for 2: Woods and Zoeller

They Are Paired Together at the Masters in Pursuit of Couples

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

AUGUSTA, Georgia — More devilish winds greeted the second round of the Masters on Friday, which was nothing compared to what — or rather, who — was awaiting Tiger Woods on the first tee.

Sixty yards down a slope from where Fuzzy Zoeller made his infamous "fried chicken and collard greens" remark, he joined Woods to tee off for the second round. And if that was not enough, Colin Montgomerie joined them, as the Masters used threesomes on Friday for the first time since 1983 to make sure the second round was completed.

Zoeller, Woods and Montgomerie set out to tackle an Augusta National course that was getting faster, firmer and tougher with each gust of cool, dry air.

Swirling around them were memories from a year ago. Woods was the runaway winner at Augusta, setting a record 18-under 270 to win by 12 strokes and become the youngest Masters champion. Zoeller jokingly told reporters that Woods should not have fried chicken, collard greens or "whatever the hell they serve" on the menu of the champions dinner.

They were paired together by virtue of a 1-under-par 71 under cruel, windy conditions in the first round. They were two strokes back of Fred Couples.

"Just another pairing," Woods said.

Zoeller apologized for his remarks and Woods accepted three days later, but the controversy has built up steam in the week leading up to the Masters. They putted on opposite ends of the practice green, each one ignoring the other until they shook hands and Zoeller patted Woods on the back before teeing off.

Even Montgomerie has provoked Woods in the last year, saying that any of Europe's 12 players on the Ryder Cup team could beat him.

If the trio could put that distraction behind them, the wind should be all they could handle. "It's still tough today," said Ben Crenshaw, who went from an 83 in Round One to an even-par 72 Friday.

The wind was so strong and unpredictable Thursday that Couples was the only player who managed to break 70, the first time that has happened in the first round of the Masters since 1987.

And the rain that delayed the start of the first round — it was finally completed on Friday — was no longer around to soften the greens.

Greg Norman was in danger of missing the cut for the second straight year. He had a 76 on Thursday, then made the turn in 40 after a double bogey on No. 9.

Vijay Singh was in danger of missing the cut for the first time in 53 events. He was 10-over for the tournament with four holes to play.

Tom Watson, who opened with a 78,

MASTERS

SECOND ROUND
(U.S. unless noted)

Steve Jones	75-70=145
Jim Furyk	76-70=146
Corey Sneed	76-70=147
John Daly	77-71=148
John Huston	77-71=148
Gary Player, South Africa	77-72=149
Darren Clarke, Britain	78-72=150
Lee Janzen	78-72=150
Tim Herron	78-72=151
Billy Mayfair	78-72=151
Tom Weir	78-73=151
Constantino Rocca, Italy	81-72=153
Frank Hobbie, New Zealand	77-76=153
Jeff Sluman	78-76=154
Greg Norman, Australia	78-76=154
Shaun Appleby, Australia	77-77=154
Ben Crenshaw	83-72=155
David Day	77-78=155
Vijay Singh, Fiji	76-80=156
Tim Lebrun	80-76=156
Mark Brooks	80-76=156
Seve Ballesteros, Spain	78-79=157
Ignacio Garcia, Spain	85-72=157
Scott Simpson	79-78=157
Gabriel Wipfler, Sweden	79-78=157
Craig Verbeke, Britain	79-78=157
Freddie Funk	79-78=157
Tim Clark, South Africa	80-78=158
Tommy Azam	81-79=160
Ken Sabel	82-78=160
Bill Glasson	82-78=161
Charles Coody	75-85=164
Amel Palmer	79-87=166
Billy Casper	81-86=167
Doug Ford	86=WD
c=amateurs	

started Friday with 12 pars, then followed a birdie with a triple bogey two holes later.

The slightest charge could take someone from as far back as 74 into contention. Phil Mickelson, an 11-time winner who is still looking for his first major, had three birdies and an eagle on the front nine, rolling in a 15-footer for birdie on No. 9 to get within one stroke of Couples.

Craig Stadler had a brilliant round in these conditions — eight birdies in a round of 68 that put him at 3-over 147.

Most people were headed the other direction. Nick Faldo, who made a 6-foot birdie putt on the 17th on Friday morning for a first-round 72, bogeyed two of the first three holes.

Ernie Els missed two short putts Friday morning to finish off a 75, then started the second round with a birdie and an eagle. By the time Els made the turn, he was at 2-over for the tournament.

One stroke behind Couples after the first round were Paul Stankowski, Jose Maria Olazabal and Scott Hoch at 2-under 70, while the others at 71 were Phil Blackmar and Paul Azinger, the only player who did not make bogey.

"I feel like I should play well here," Couples said. "It's my favorite tournament. It's my favorite course and it's a place where I have a ton of confidence."

He got a break Thursday at No. 12, even though he bogeyed it. His tee shot landed on the bank of Rae's Creek in front of the green, but the ball stopped about three inches from the water. So instead of taking a penalty stroke, Couples took off one shoe and played his second shot from the bank at No. 12. If Couples wins this tournament, he will remember his good fortune. (AP/NYT)



Woods teeing off Friday with Colin Montgomerie and Fuzzy Zoeller.

What Makes Tiger Tick? Wisdom Beyond His Age

By Thomas Boswell
Washington Post Service

AUGUSTA, Georgia — As Tiger Woods and his caddy, Mike Cowan, walked down the 10th hole during the first round of the Masters, heading toward the Amen Corner and its infamous tunnel of swirling winds, the pair looked at a pile of leaves sining beside the fairway.

Suddenly, a huge gust of wind hit the leaves and, in Woods' words, "They exploded in all directions. I've never seen the wind blow four ways at once." "So I said, 'Fluff, which way is the wind blowing?'"

Woods hit a 390-yard drive Thursday in that first round. And he showed

VANTAGE POINT

a chipping and putting touch that may be the softest and most imaginative in the world. But what sets Woods apart — just as it made Bobby Jones and Jack Nicklaus different and better than their peers — is in his head. He's old, wise and tough under pressure far beyond his 22 years.

Woods scrambled his brains out in the first round. Nothing he accomplished in last year's victory was significantly tougher, or more a credit to his maturity and self-possession, than his successful war of survival with Augusta National in those crazy winds.

At various times, Woods cursed, heaved a branch, tossed a putter, staggered with his hands over his head and, by the end, simply gazed at the heavens in exasperation. But he never quit under brutal conditions that blew the fight out of many other stars.

Even though the tormenting gusts

blew his approach shots into trouble 10 times — yes, Tiger missed 10 greens — Woods still managed to make seven gritty saves, plus four birdies, to place himself squarely in the hunt to repeat as champ.

Some may think his opening 1-under-par 71 wasn't too wonderful. Isn't Augusta National supposed to be The Tiger House after his 18-under-par record victory last year? So what's so hot about Tiger's first round?

Woods did not crack, that's what. And he had every chance. Nobody in sports has been under more pressure than Woods for the last 18 months. He is the eye of his own twister. He has had every reason to become distracted, irritated, or even self-pitying.

Instead, he continues to show the general strength of character that golf loves to believe it cultivates and that its greatest players have so often exemplified. Either the game teaches many of the most admirable qualities or it selects as champions those who already have many of them.

Like Nicklaus for so many years, Woods rings true. Out of the swirl around him, he seems to see what matters and ignore what does not. Early in the first round, for example, Gay Brewer, 66, became the oldest man ever to march par at Augusta with a 72.

"To do that under these conditions — how inspirational that is," said Woods. "You look at it and say, 'If he can do it, I should be able to do it.'"

Before he began, Woods counseled himself. "Tough day. Accept it. You'll make mistakes. Hang in there. Be patient. Make pars. Move on."

That is easier said than done at any age. At 22, it is scary to think Woods can actually follow such advice.

Piazza Makes It Hard to Hate Him

Booed by L.A. Fans for Rejecting Fat Contract, He Slugs 2

The Associated Press

Mike Piazza quickly turned the boos into cheers. That's what happens when you hit a pair of homers and drive in six runs.

"It's been a little frustrating, getting off to a tough start," Piazza said after leading the Los Angeles Dodgers over the Arizona Diamondbacks, 7-2, on Thursday night. "But it's such a long year. Tonight, I felt very relaxed, like I turned a page and moved on."

The catcher, who was booed in the Dodgers' first two home games as a result of stalled contract negotiations, sent a pitch from Jeff Suppan (0-2) halfway up the pavilion in left-center field, a drive estimated at 445 feet, after Jose Vizcaino walked in the first.

In the third, Piazza hit his sixth career slam after Ismael Valdes (1-1) singled, and Eric Young and Vizcaino hunted for hits.

This time, Piazza's fly to left-center barely cleared the fence. "Fortunately, I had a couple good pitches to hit and didn't miss them," said Piazza, who entered the game with only five hits in 29 at-bats.

Eligible for free agency after the season, Piazza announced Wednesday that he had instructed his agent to break off negotiations — after turning down a six-year contract extension worth about \$80 million. He apologized to fans and teammates for allowing the talks to become a distraction.

"I said what I wanted to say and that was it," Piazza said. "I feel like it's ridiculous to relapse. What is done is done. I can't bring back the past. You make mistakes and you move on. You've got to bury it."

Arizona dropped to 2-7. Valdes allowed both runs and eight hits in 6½ innings, while Suppan gave up six runs and eight hits in four innings.

Expos 6, Brewers 5 In Milwaukee, Montreal got its first victory of the season after an 0-7 start on F.P. Santangelo's RBI single off

NL ROUNDUP

Bob Wickman (0-2) in the ninth. The Expos, the last winless team in the majors, stopped the Brewers' six-game winning streak.

Rondell White went 4-for-4 and drove in a key run in the eighth. Anthony Telford (1-0) pitched a hitless eighth, and Ugueth Urbina finished for his first save.

Cardinals 7, Rockies 5 Mark McGwire completed a homerless series at Coors Field, but Tom Lampkin carried St. Louis to a three-game sweep with a home run and four RBIs.

Lampkin, duplicating his one-homer, four-RBI performance in the series opener on Tuesday, keyed a five-run fourth with a three-run homer. Colorado, which wasted a 4-0 lead, lost its fifth straight following a 4-1 start.

Mike Bushy (1-0) pitched two innings, and Jeff Brantley got three outs for his first save. Curtis Leskanic (0-1) was the loser.

Breaves 4, Pirates 3 Ryan Klesko homered off Jon Lieber (0-1) in his first two at-bats and drove in three runs as Atlanta held on at Three Rivers Stadium after taking a 4-0 lead. Pittsburgh lost for the fifth time in seven games.

Kevin Millwood (1-0) had a five-hit shutout until tiring in a three-run seventh. Mark Wohlers got his second save by stranding the potential go-ahead run at second.

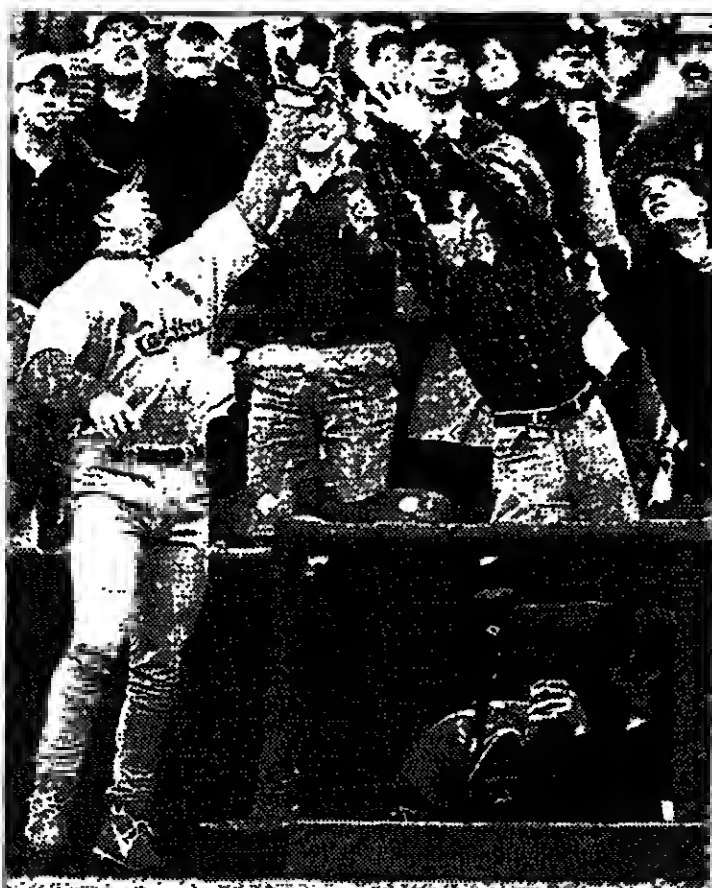
Cubs 8, Mets 7 At a cold and windy Wrigley Field, Steve Trachsel (2-0) pitched 5½ innings and helped himself at the plate as Chicago won after taking a 7-0 lead.

The Cubs, winless in their first 14 games last year, improved to 7-2, pounding Rick Reed (0-1) for seven runs and 10 hits in 3½ innings.

Trachsel allowed four runs — three earned — and six hits. He also singled during a four-run second and walked during a three-run fourth.

Rod Beck pitched the ninth for his fifth save in five chances. After allowing two runs, Beck retired Rey Ordonez on a game-ending grounder.

Padres 6, Reds 2 Ken Caminiti hit a towering three-run homer into the second deck to cap a six-run rally in the seventh, and San



Mark McGwire of the Cardinals snagging a Rockies' foul ball.

Diego completed a three-game sweep of visiting Cincinnati.

At 7-2, San Diego is off to the second-best start in franchise history, trailing only the 1984 pennant winners who began the season at 10-2. Mark Langston and four relievers combined on an eight-hitter, with the victory going to Brian Boehringer (1-0).

Astros 3, Giants 1 Sean Bergman (1-1) allowed one run and eight hits in six innings, and Derek Bell doubled and homered.

C.J. Nitkowski followed Bergman with three perfect innings for his first career save as visiting Houston won for the fourth time in five games.

Twins, Slugging Like 20, Batter Blue Jays, 13-2

The Associated Press

They have 48 hits and 41 runs in their last four games. They hit two three-run home runs in the same game.

No, not the Seattle Mariners or the Cleveland Indians. It's the Minnesota Twins, who have spent the week kicking sand in the faces of all those who scoffed at their lineup entering the season.

Orlando Merced led the latest outburst Thursday night, matching a career high with five runs batted in during a 13-2 victory over his former team, the Toronto Blue Jays.

AL ROUNDUP

Merced and Matt Lawton each hit three-run homers and rookie David Ortiz continued his impressive start with two doubles, two RBIs and three runs.

Add it all up and the Twins are the second-highest scoring team in the American League behind the Mariners.

All that offense made it an easy night for Brad Radke, who needed one after struggling with a cold in recent days and with his control in his first outing last Friday.

Radke (1-1) allowed two runs on six hits in seven innings. He had no trouble protecting a 7-0 lead.

Radke's outing, combined with Mike Trombley's two sco-

reless innings of relief, lowered Minnesota's team ERA to 3.38, second-best in the league to Baltimore's 2.75.

Orioles 2, Royals 1 For Baltimore it was an easy formula: Turning two five times meant seven straight.

The Orioles tied a club record with five double plays and won their seventh consecutive game with a 2-1 victory over the host Kansas City Royals.

Jimmy Key (11-0) allowed one run and six hits in seven innings and Armando Benitez pitched the ninth for his second save.

The Royals wasted a nice outing by Pat Rapp, who gave up one run and three hits in seven innings.

Baltimore's Cal Ripken homered in the seventh inning to tie the game, 1-1. The shot moved him past Lou Gehrig for 45th on the career hits list with 2,721.

Rangers 11, White Sox 0 At Chicago, Aaron Sele pitched a three-hitter for his first career shutout.

Lee Stevens hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs and Juan Gonzalez added a two-run double to back Sele, making his 110th career start. He struck out five and walked four.

James Baldwin (1-1) gave up seven runs — five earned — five hits and six walks in five innings.

• Tampa Bay at Detroit was postponed by rain.

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EUROSPORT

Eurosport, Europe's No.1 Sports TV Channel, available on cable and satellite

SPORTS

Surprise! Nuggets Win and Bulls Lose

The Associated Press
It was a noteworthy night for the National Basketball Association's best and worst teams.
The Denver Nuggets avoided any chance of finishing with the worst record in league history by beating the Sacramento Kings, 128-103, on Thursday night for their 10th victory of the season.

While the Nuggets got a rare victory, the Chicago Bulls went down to a rare defeat. The Cleveland Cavaliers snapped the Bulls' winning streak at 13.

With five games remaining, the Nuggets (10-6) are assured of finishing with at least one more victory than the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers, who ended the season at 9-73.

"It hasn't sunk in yet, but I'm sure it's a relief," said Denver's coach, Bill Hamill. "With the way this season has been, we'll probably be called for running an illegal play and have to forfeit the game."

Phonon Ellis had 26 points and 15 rebounds, and Cory Alexander added 23 points and 11 assists for Denver, which had a standing ovation from the crowd of 11,000.

Cavaliers 91, Bulls 85 Chicago, which has an NBA-best 59-18 record, blew a chance to clinch the top record in the Eastern Conference.

"Cleveland was the aggressor," said the Bulls' coach, Phil Jackson. "They played well."

Brevin Knight had 22 points, 5 steals and 4 assists for the Cavaliers.

Michael Jordan, whose buzzer-beating shot knocked Cleveland out of the playoffs in 1989 and 1993, scored 29 points, but did not make a field goal in the fourth period. Shaw Kemp had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Cavs, while Dennis Rodman grabbed 20 rebounds for the Bulls.

Pistons 102, Wizards 83 In Washington, the beleaguered Wizards were booed by their own fans during a lopsided loss to Detroit.

The defeat dropped the Wizards 2½ games behind the New Jersey Nets, who held the eighth and final playoff spot in the East.

The distraction caused by a sexual assault complaint filed this week against two Washington stars, Chris Webber and Juwan Howard, combined with the loss of the NBA assists leader, Rod Strickland, left the Wizards with little fight for a game they needed to win to contend for a playoff berth.

Pacers 105, Hawks 102 Reggie Miller hit an off-balance 3-pointer with 1.3 seconds left to force overtime and leading Indiana never trailed in the extra period in Atlanta.

Miller, who finished with 19 points, opened the overtime with another 3-pointer, giving Indiana a lead it held until Dikembe Mutombo hit a short book to tie it at 100 with 2:25 left.

Jalen Rose then made a wide open 3-pointer from the right corner to put Indiana ahead to stay.

SuperSonics 103, Mavericks 101 In Dallas, Gary Payton scored seven of his 28 points during a key fourth-quarter run as Seattle edged the Mavericks to give coach George Karl his 500th career victory.

Detlef Schrempf added five of his 22 points during the 15-6 fourth-quarter surge to help the Sonics move within a half-game of Utah for the best record in the Western Conference. Michael Finley scored 27 points for Dallas.

Trail Blazers 99, Clippers 95 Rasheed Wallace scored six straight points late in the game as Portland rallied to beat the Clippers in Los Angeles.

With the Trail Blazers down 88-85 and 3½ minutes remaining, Wallace scored the next three baskets to put Portland up by three points with less than two minutes left.

Brian Grant had 25 points and 13 rebounds for Portland. Isaiah Rider scored 25 points and Wallace, filling in for the injured Arvydas Sabonis at center, had 23 points for the Blazers.

Rockets 93, Warriors 89 In Oakland, Mario Elie scored 22 points and Clyde Drexler added 19 as Houston took con-

Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

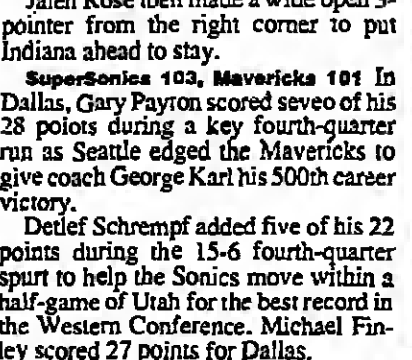
NBA STANDINGS

CONFERENCE	TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB
EASTERN	Atlanta	12	24	.333	—
	Charlotte	11	25	.306	1 1/2
	Orlando	9	27	.250	3 1/2
	Washington	8	28	.222	4 1/2
	Boston	7	29	.206	5 1/2
	Philadelphia	6	30	.176	6 1/2
	Indiana	5	31	.143	7 1/2
	Chicago	4	32	.111	8 1/2
	Charlotte	3	33	.083	9 1/2
	Atlanta	2	34	.059	10 1/2

WESTERN

CONFERENCE	TEAM	W	L	PCT	GB
WESTERN	Los Angeles	12	24	.333	—
	Portland	11	25	.306	1 1/2
	Seattle	10	26	.278	2 1/2
	San Antonio	9	27	.250	3 1/2
	Phoenix	8	28	.222	4 1/2
	Utah	7	29	.194	5 1/2
	Denver	6	30	.167	6 1/2
	San Diego	5	31	.139	7 1/2
	Los Angeles	4	32	.111	8 1/2
	Portland	3	33	.083	9 1/2

Chicago's Scottie Pippen, left, got the foul as he and Dennis Rodman tied up Cleveland's Shawn Kemp.



Chicago's Scottie Pippen, left, got the foul as he and Dennis Rodman tied up Cleveland's Shawn Kemp.

Jim Jackson scored 25 points for the Warriors, who have lost four straight at home and 14 of 16 overall.

Malone Is Elbowed Out
Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz was to miss just the fifth game of his 13-year career on Friday night after being suspended for one game and fined \$5,000 for an elbow that knocked San Antonio's David Robinson unconscious.

During the six-day trial, the league's lawyers strongly disputed the discrimination allegations, and called as witnesses Violet Palmer and Dee Kanter, who made history this season when they became the first women to officiate regular-season games in the NBA or any other major professional team sport.

Palmer and Kanter both testified that they had been hired on merit and that they did not believe the league discriminated. Mishkin called the verdict a "bizarre" result. "Here is a finding that the NBA discriminates against women in the hiring of officials, and we are the only league that has them," he said.

But Ortiz-Del Valle's lawyers introduced documents that showed that the NBA had given her high marks as a referee. One such document, a scouting report to Darral Garretson, chief of the league's officiating staff, from Aaron Wade, another league official, described Ortiz-Del Valle as being in good physical condition, having "excellent basketball officiating skills."

"I would not hesitate to recommend that at some time in the near future she be considered to enter our training program," Wade wrote.

Ortiz-Del Valle's lawyers asserted that the league gave her varying reasons for denying her a job, which they called a pretext for discrimination.

Jury Calls a Foul on the NBA: Woman Ref Gets \$7.85 Million

By Benjamin Weiser
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — For years, Sandra Ortiz-Del Valle had dreamed of becoming a referee in the National Basketball Association, but she never got any closer than officiating a few pre-season games for the New Jersey Nets.

Convinced that she was a victim of sex discrimination, she sued the league. A federal jury in Manhattan agreed Thursday, finding that the league had denied her a job because she was a woman and awarding her \$7.85 million in damages.

The verdict, which includes an award of \$7 million in punitive damages, marks the first time the league has lost a discrimination case in court, said one of its lawyers, Jeffrey Mishkin. He said the league would ask Judge Sidney Stein to vacate the decision and, if the judge refused, would appeal.

Ortiz-Del Valle, 46, who teaches physical education and coaches basketball at Humanities High School in New York City, sobbed as the verdict was announced. "The best ref is what I wanted to be," she said afterward. "I didn't go into it just because I wanted to break the doors down."

During the six-day trial, the league's lawyers strongly disputed the discrimination allegations, and called as witnesses Violet Palmer and Dee Kanter, who made history this season when they became the first women to officiate regular-season games in the NBA or any other major professional team sport.

Palmer and Kanter both testified that they had been hired on merit and that they did not believe the league discriminated. Mishkin called the verdict a "bizarre" result. "Here is a finding that the NBA discriminates against women in the hiring of officials, and we are the only league that has them," he said.

But Ortiz-Del Valle's lawyers introduced documents that showed that the NBA had given her high marks as a referee. One such document, a scouting report to Darral Garretson, chief of the league's officiating staff, from Aaron Wade, another league official, described Ortiz-Del Valle as being in good physical condition, having "excellent basketball officiating skills."

"I would not hesitate to recommend that at some time in the near future she be considered to enter our training program," Wade wrote.

Ortiz-Del Valle's lawyers asserted that the league gave her varying reasons for denying her a job, which they called a pretext for discrimination.

Italy Police Officer Linked to Ransom

BRESCIA, Italy — A paramilitary police officer was suspended from duty Friday after an inquiry into allegations that he profited from the release of a man held for more than two months by kidnappers on Sicily.

Francesco DeFino, 40, was suspended after a report that he had accepted a bribe of \$550,000 from the kidnappers to release the man.

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Latvia Schedules Citizenship Deal

Latvia is scheduled to hold a referendum on a citizenship deal that would allow non-citizens to vote in local elections, a move that has sparked controversy among the country's ethnic Latvians.

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DAVE BARRY

Flushed With Pride

MIAMI — As an American, I am feeling pretty darned proud of my country (America). I will tell you why: My new toilet.

I wound up with this toilet as a result of a column I wrote last year, in which I complained bitterly about the new toilets that we Americans had been saddled with as a result of an act of Congress (official motto: "100 Senators: 435 Representatives: No Clues").

This was the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1992, which decreed that all new toilets had to use 1.6 gallons of water per flush — less than half the amount of water that the old toilets used. This was supposed to save water. Unfortunately, the new

toilets have a problem. They work fine for one type of bodily function, which, in the interest of decency, I will refer to here only by the euphemistic term "No. 1." But many of the new toilets do a very poor job of handling "acts of Congress," if you get my drift.

They often must be flushed two or three times, and even more if it is an unusually large act of Congress, such as might be produced by a congressman who recently attended a fund-raising dinner sponsored by the Consolidated Bulk Food Manufacturers. The result is that these new toilets were not only annoying, but in some cases seemed to be using MORE water than the old ones.

So I wrote a column complaining about this, and expressing support for a bill, introduced by Representative Joe Knollenberg of Michigan, that would allow us to go back to toilets that have the kind of flushing power that made America the most respected nation on Earth.

You know how cynics claim that Americans are just a bunch of TV-sedated zombie slugs who don't care about the issues? Well, I wish those cynics had been standing under my mail slot after my toilet column was published, because they would have been crushed like baby spiders under a freight locomotive. I got a huge quantity of letters — some of them far more detailed than I would have liked — from Americans who care DEEPLY about the issue of their toilets, and the vast majority of them HATE the new ones.

Granted, I got a few letters supporting the new toilets, but these were mostly from ecology nuts who, because of their organic granola diets, probably don't even NEED toilets, just wishy brooms. There was also a somewhat snippy editorial about my column in The Washington Post (motto: "Even Our Weather Forecast Comes From Anonymous Sources").

Then, about five months after my column appeared, I got a letter from Charles Avoles of Contractors 2000, an association of independent plumbing contractors. He said that a New York City company, Varsity Plumbing, in an effort to find a 1.6-gallon toilet that actually works, built a testing laboratory with room for six toilets side by side. Avoles said that Varsity duplicated all the standard toilet tests, but then, in its quest for the ultimate small toilet — the Tara Lipinski of toilets — Varsity "pushed the criteria even further, straining each model to its limits." It must have been exciting: Six toilets, pushing the envelope, going head to head! I don't even want to think about it. Anyway, according to Avoles, Varsity "found one particular 1.6-gallon toilet that actually works," and the company president, Bobby Bellini,

Six of them, pushing the envelope, going head to head!

Contractors 2000 offered to install one of these toilets in my personal home, and I agreed, on the condition that I would pay full price for it, so that I could write a column about it and claim it as an income-tax deduction.

And so in March a Contractors 2000 member, Anthony Fleming, and his wife, Michele, came to my home and installed a new toilet. I cannot speak highly enough of this toilet. It is an inspiring example of American ingenuity and engineering "know-how." It has become like a member of the family: I have affectionately named it "Maurice." The bottom line is this: If there is an act of Congress that Maurice cannot handle in one flush, I have no personal knowledge of it.

I can't use this column for advertising, so I won't specify the brand of the toilet, but you can write to Contractors 2000, 2179 Fourth Street, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55110.

By the time you read this, there will probably be other brands of 1.6-gallon toilets that can get the job done; you can ask your plumbing contractor. Of course, by the time you read this, Congress may have passed a new law, requiring that toilets must flush with a maximum of four teaspoons of water. AND be equipped with air bags. Congress is just full of acts.

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The Art of Making the Impossible Look Easy

By Mary Blume
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — In 1972, two years after "M*A*S*H" exploded on the screen, one critic described Robert Altman as "almost frighteningly nonrepentant." A French encyclopedia of American film calls Altman anarchic, in effect throwing up its hands at the thought of fitting him neatly into the directorial food chain.

"I'm a bit of a whore," Altman helpfully suggests. "I can get interested in almost any kind of idea if it sparks me. There isn't a thought ahead that this is going to be successful or even good but it's going to be fun and interesting. And I think that's some sort of not arrogance really but curiosity."

His work is instantly his own, but has not congealed into a classifiable style: he is never distanced or fashionably ironic. Anarchic is too destructive but definitely impudent: a sort of Huck Finn/riverboat gambler/snake oil merchant with an infallible eye and the gift, as Pauline Kael said years ago, for the great American art of making the impossible look easy.

"I don't have this idea that everything has to be a masterpiece, brilliant, all that stuff. God knows when we made 'Nashville' I didn't realize what we had in it until we screened it. I thought it was just another kind of cute movie. And the same with 'M*A*S*H.' I was just doing what occurred to me as I did it."

He was in Paris with two new movies that could not be more different, "Jazz '34," a salute to Kansas City jazz of the 1930s, which runs for a bit over an hour, and a big thriller, "The Gingerbread Man," based on a John Grisham story set in Savannah and starring Kenneth Branagh.

"Jazz '34" was made during the filming of Altman's "Kansas City," when he realized that the

musicians he had gathered were simply too good to be background figures and so he made the short film on the side.

"I was a little bit sneaky about that," he remarked impudently, "since the producers didn't realize it was a separate film. But now it's a bonus for them because the film didn't make any money and they have this which they didn't pay any extra for." It's a marvelous little movie, even for non-jazz buffs, and, as Duke Ellington would say, beyond category. It is not a documentary, it isn't a feature, just an affectionate all-musical homage to great swing-style jazz in 1934, when the Depression hadn't yet struck Kansas City.

Musicians came from all over the country to find work in clubs that were open day and night and nobody went to bed for fear of missing something. Even musicians sick in the hospital, the voice-over says, would lean out of the window and play their horns.

Altman is from Kansas City, and when he was about to start on the dangerous project of making a feature about his hometown when he was a kid, he remarked that the story's frame — jazz, politics, gangsters — might turn out to be more important than the picture within. This is exactly what happened and, as Altman says, the little jazz film will endure a lot longer than the feature it was to frame.

"The Gingerbread Man," on the other hand, is a humdrum thriller that Altman did not initiate and simply directed for the money. He got Branagh and a fine cameraman and added a burlesque to give drama to a logy tale. He likes the film without it — "imagine the film without it!" — but regards the burlesque as a lot — "imagine the film without it!" — but regards the burlesque as a lot — "imagine the film without it!" — but regards the burlesque as a lot — "imagine the film without it!"

The reviews were as good as any film I've made."



Robert Altman: "I can get interested in almost any kind of idea."

Next month in Mississippi, Altman starts shooting "Cookie's Fortune," with Patricia Neal, Glenn Close, Julianne Moore and Liv Ullmann. He describes it as a gothic thriller.

"It's going to be very moody. It was written to be shot in winter, then I got stalled on the financing. Now it's Easter so I had to change the mood. I was going to have it really wintry, leaves off the trees, all spiky, and now we're doing it like Easter eggs."

The script is by Anne Rapp, whose short stories Altman likes.

Rapp is also working on a sequel to "Short Cuts," which will use three more Raymond Carver plus stories from other writers. "Short Cuts," Altman says, was the most satisfying thing he has done. The one he was most satisfied with?

"Yes." In addition to films, he is working on two television series, one with Gary Trudeau of "Doonesbury" on a Bill Gates character (Altman and Trudeau previously did the remarkable political satire, "Tanner '88") and one about the New York art world.

"Everything out of New York is police, police, and I just wanted to change the tempo. The tempo change is what I am trying to do."

In his career Altman has fought with everyone from the dreadful Jack Warner, who objected to Altman's use of overlapping dialogue, to today's rulers, marketing men on the lookout for blockbusters and new faces. He doesn't expect "Cookie's Fortune" to win their attention. "I've been around too long so at best it's going to be a limited distribution."

He was born in 1925 and his career goes back to making industrial shorts in Kansas City. His eye, as "Jazz '34" so abundantly shows, is as fresh as ever, his camera as frisky. "There's no difference. I don't think the films are any better or any worse. All he does is make films his own way. 'Isn't that what you are supposed to do?' he asks."

His best films take a moral stance simply by showing, as he has said, what we condone. "I'm always surprised at people saying there's something brave or arrogant about that." Like the dog that eats the farmer's eggs and hides the shells so he won't be caught, Altman says everyone is hiding eggshells. "I'm always surprised by it and then I'm seduced by it and then everybody says, Oh you're so brave."

There is a lot he would like to do, and now says he will not be able to do. "I have insurance problems and pretty soon it's going to be impossible just in terms of age alone." For the first time he feels held back.

"Well, I'm running out of time. Ten years ago it never occurred to me that there would be a time when this was going to end, and now it does." Precious and funny as always, years ago when he founded his own production company he called it Sandcastle. The idea was that nothing that was so much fun could possibly last.

PEOPLE

A PUBLIC memorial service for Wynette, who died in Nashville, Tennessee, ended with Lorrie Morgan bringing the crowd to tears and then to its feet with a rendition of "Stand by Your Man," Wynette's signature tune. A large portrait of Wynette was center stage and a spotlight was fixed on it. Loretta Lynn was scheduled to perform but canceled at the last minute, and Dolly Parton told the audience that Lynn "was just so broke up she couldn't make it here." The service at Ryman Auditorium was emotional throughout, with stars paying tribute to "the first lady of country music." Randy Travis, Wynonna Parton, The Oak Ridge Boys and Rudy Gatlin performed, and Merle Haggard appeared on video. Earlier Wynette was buried after a private funeral that featured Parton, who was so upset she couldn't finish a song. "Thank you. That's all I can sing right now," Parton said after cutting short the gospel tune "Shine On."

As police waited outside, the Duchess of York played squash in a charity event to raise funds for an inner-city youth center in Pittsburgh. Then the former Sarah Ferguson posted \$4,000 bail for the program's founder, Ramon (Tru)

Dixon, who was arrested after the match for failing to pay child support. "There is a man who has so much to give to the community and inner-city kids, and they get him for something like this," she was quoted in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette as saying. The duchess met Dixon last year when she was in town to film a segment on inspirational people for her first television special.

Oetzi the iceman is the unlikely star of a film set in the Stone Age valleys where he once roamed, but he won't be appearing on camera himself. At some 5,300 years old, he is confined to a hi-tech, multimillion-dollar exhibit showcase at an archaeological museum in northern Italy. Instead, the Viennese biologist Arthur Buerger will play Oetzi in a television film centered on life in the Stone Age. Shooting is to start next week after the authorities gave permission for the director, Kurt Muendli, to construct a replica Stone Age village in a protected valley in southern Austria.

The owner of Elaine's, a Manhattan celebrity hangout, was sued for \$12 million by a man who claims she scratched

his face with her nails after calling him "white trash." James Sorrells, who in court papers that he was having a drink in the Upper East Side restaurant last week when Elaine Kaufman attacked him. "I didn't do anything to him," Kaufman said. "He wasn't harmed. He was in my face and I brushed him away. He was drunk. What do you do with someone who is in your face and drunk?"

The Jackson brothers are back together: Michael, Jackie, Jermaine, Marlon, Randy and Tito have begun work on a new album together, the Hollywood Reporter says. The first record Michael has made with his siblings since "Victory" in 1984 is tentatively entitled "J5."

The Rolling Stones will give an additional concert in Paris in July. Their concert on July 25 was almost sold out, so the promoters decided to put on a second event the next day. The American group Smashing Pumpkins will appear with the Stones in Lyon in June, and the singer and guitarist Jean-Louis Aubert will perform in the concert in Marseille on July 22 and the two Paris concerts.



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